



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 36, No. 3

www.williamsburgbirdclub.org

March 2012

President's Corner

By Shirley Devan



The Williamsburg Bird Club awarded two Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships for the summer of 2012. Audrey Root and Justine Koleszar will attend the fourth session July 29–August 11.

Audrey is a 5th grader and this is her first trip to Nature Camp. Justine is a 6th grader and this is her second trip to Nature Camp, she received a scholarship from the Bird Club in 2011 as well.

We've been able to capture a photo of Audrey Root with Bill Williams (see page 2). We hope to get a photo of Justine and Bill soon!

The Club received 16 applications. Each was worthy of a scholarship, and the evaluation team struggled to choose the two "best." Many thanks to the evaluators: Ann Carpenter, Gary Carpenter, Mary Anne Fennell, Alex Minarik, Jeanette Navia, and Lee Schuster.

From December through February 24, thirty-five members have contributed \$1,050.00 to support the Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships. These contributions are over and above membership dues. This level of support and the large number of contributors are stunning and gratifying. The commitment of our Bird Club membership to youth education and Nature Camp signifies the strength of our Club and the realization of the importance of science education for today's youth.

Thank you for your generous support!

Next month, the recipients of the Bill Sheehan and Ruth Beck Ornithology Research Grants. Stay tuned!

Welcome to New Members

Lucinda Baker, Barbara & Charlie Boyers, George & Rosemarie Harris, Thad Hecht, Jan, Jim & Callie Newton, Regina, David and Audrey Root, and Deb Woodward

March Meeting



Join us Wednesday, March 14 for *Big Year Chronicles*, a presentation by Mark Adams that will survey books about birding Big Years that have been published since Roger Tory Peterson and James Fisher chronicled

their 1953 field trip around North America in *Wild America*. Mark will highlight the classic Big Year books, and describe some lesser-known gems. Every Big Year book describes an ambitious bird watching adventure that was challenging, entertaining, educational, obsessive and occasionally dangerous. The Big Year territories covered by ambitious bird watchers include individual U.S. states, the American Birding Association Area, entire countries and continents, and even the world. Mark will discuss the varied goals, strategies, and technologies for birding Big Years, including his own Texas Big Year.

Mark is an astronomer who works for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he is the Assistant Director for Communications. Previously he was the Site Director for the University of Texas-McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mountains of west Texas. A bird watcher since 1995, Mark chronicled his Big Year in *Chasing Birds across Texas: A Birding Big Year* (Texas A&M University Press, 2003). He is a regional editor for North American Birds magazine. Mark will be bringing copies of his book for sale at special prices (\$25 hardcover, \$15 trade paper), and he will be happy to sign them.

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Updated Summary of Bird Data

The latest version of Bill Williams' *Summary of Local Bird Data through 2011: 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.

Plan to join us on March 14 at 7:30 PM in **Room 150, Millington Hall** on the W&M campus. Geoff Giles will be providing the refreshments. **Don't forget to use your parking permit.**

March Field Trip

By Geoff Giles

New Kent Forestry Center on 17 March—Our WBC March field trip will be to the New Kent Forestry Center at 0700 hours on 17 March (wear green!) 2012. We will offer two simultaneous walks on separate trails, both beginning at seven. One trail covers mixed pine and hardwood forest plus fields, the second features mixed forest and swamp trail—so you can take your pick between two exceptional habitats.

NKFC is not normally open to the public, so this is a rare chance to spend as much time as you wish birding some unspoiled nature, from the banks of Chickahominee Lake, to wetlands, grasslands and forest. This property was formerly a State Game Farm and still features a healthy population of wild turkeys and bobwhites. There is also a large population of foxes which chase the gamebirds, and some coyotes which pursue the foxes!! All that in addition to a bustling population of our regional bird species!

NKFC gates will be open, and bird walks will start from a location which is a five-minute drive from the main gate along a marked road. It is about a forty minute drive from Williamsburg, and is about 11 miles east of the left turn on route 60 at Anderson's Corner. The address to set into your GPS is 11301 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge. **For those wishing to carpool, we will depart at 0600 hours from the IHOP parking lot off Rochambeau Road (near Walmart).**

Our birdwalks will be a part of the NKFC "Walk in the Forest" celebration. There will be other activities throughout the day offered and free native tree saplings given away. For any further info, call Geoff Giles at 757-645-8716, or contact him by email at tylerandal2@aol.com. Hope to see you there!

February 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!

February 5: Geoff Giles was among the participants in the HRBC walk at Newport News Park led by Jane Frigo. There were 50 species identified during the morning, including 7 species of woodpeckers, Great Horned Owls and 8 species of ducks.

February 11: Shirley Devan and a friend spent the day on the Eastern Shore. Personal highlights for her (year birds!!) were Long-tailed Duck, Wild Turkey, Greater Yellowlegs, Marbled Godwits, Short-billed Dowitchers, Spotted Sandpiper and Black-crowned Night Heron.

February 11: Martha Briggs had a Gray Catbird at the feeder on her deck—not an easy bird to find this time of year.

February 12: Tom McCary reports a Red-shouldered Hawk in his yard.

February 13: Shirley Devan walked the short loop on Jamestown Island. She identified 27 species of birds (some on the causeway entrance road), including a Red-headed Woodpecker and a Hermit Thrush.

February 18: Tom McCary reports that he and Geoff Giles see a Northern Harrier and an American Kestrel at Shirley Plantation.

February 19: Shirley Devan reports seeing 120+ Rusty Blackbirds and a lone Tree Swallow at Warhill Swamp. Geoff Giles has a **Common Redpoll** come to his feeder.

February 19: John Adair and George & Virginia Boyles joined leader Jane Frigo and several other birders for the HRBC walk in Newport News Park. Forty-two species were seen during the morning; the most exciting was a lone male Redhead at the first bridge. He preened just feet from the bridge giving everyone a lengthy, up close look.

February 22: A small flock of Cedar Waxwings show up in a Butternut tree in Tom McCary's yard.

February 23: Bill Williams spots the first Osprey of the season at the College Creek Hawkwatch. Brian Taber reports seeing a second one during the morning.

February 24: E-mail sent by Roger Gosden from West Virginia "Two years ago the snow lay so deep here in the Alleghenies that even snowplows couldn't clear our mile-long driveway, so I had to snowshoe in. The forest was silent and empty apart from starving deer. This year is startlingly different. Gray squirrel and chipmunk around my feeder and a bat (sp. unknown) flitting about at noon. They should be hibernating! Two years ago, birds completely deserted the mountain slopes (3,300 feet here), but today all the old friends are visiting my feeders two-by-two—B-C chickadees, W-B nuthatches, R-B and Downy woodpeckers, purple finch, and a R-S hawk yelling in the distance."

February 23: Tom Armour, Brian Taber and Bill Williams saw the first Laughing Gull of the Season at College Creek Hawkwatch.

Bird Outreach at Wild Birds Unlimited

By Bill Williams

On Saturday, March 10, 2012 members of the Williamsburg Bird Club will be on hand at Wild Birds Unlimited in the Monticello Marketplace Shopping Center from 1:00 PM. on to answer birding and bird related questions. We will be recruiting participants for the April 29, 2012 Williamsburg Spring Bird Count and promoting other citizen science activities including eBird, the December 16, 2012 Williamsburg Christmas Bird, and the February

2013 Great Back Yard Bird Count, among others. Tell your neighbors and friends to migrate our way on March 10!

2012 Recipient of Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarship



Audrey Root, shown here with Bill Williams, is one of two recipients of the 2012 Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships awarded by the Williamsburg Bird Club. Photo by Shirley Devan

Bird Walk at Shirley Plantation—3/10/2010



Located on the banks of the James River, Shirley Plantation's marshlands, coves, and shorelines offer birders a unique opportunity to view the spring migration of songbirds

and waterfowl. WBC member Tom McCary and Randy Carter offer a guided tour of areas normally off limits to the public, places where only birders and birds congregate. Reservations required by March 7; \$7.00 per person (\$5.00 if you tell them you are a member of the Williamsburg Bird Club).

The Williamsburg Spring Bird Count-29 April

By Bill Williams

We hope everyone has Sunday, April 29, 2012 shaded in for the Williamsburg Spring Bird Count. This annual bird club citizen science event, modeled after our Christmas Bird Count, has field teams and feeder watchers working to document every bird of every species they can find that day. Please let us know if you can participate for any part of the day to document our avian diversity 7.5 miles in every direction from the Colonial Williamsburg Information Center, the count circle's center point. More information will follow in the April Flyer. Those not already part of a field team should contact Bill Williams at jwwil2@wm.edu.

GBBC at York River State Park

By Geoff Giles

For the 2012 Great Backyard Bird Count, York River State Park hosted bird counts for the public each of the four days, from 17–20 February. Bird counts on each of those days were led by members of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists and of the Williamsburg Bird Club. Some of the count days saw many species active and more participants in count,s and others were blustery winter days where many species were not as active. Throughout the count, the park demonstrated its importance as a habitat and a sanctuary for wildfowl, birds and other wildlife, and a beautiful place for visitors to enjoy the outdoors and connect with nature!

Count data from the park will be entered in citizen science databases of the National Audubon Society and the nation's foremost bird studies institution, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This data will be used to further scientific findings on the effects of climate change, habitat loss and degradation and other factors on patterns of bird population fluctuations and migration.

Very evident from our count was the importance of habitat of the park for species recovering from near extinction, including the Canvasback and Ruddy Ducks, and our national symbol, the Bald Eagle. Happily, during the count there were many sightings of the majestic eagles fishing, hunting and soaring along the banks of our park on the historic York River. We plan to offer periodic opportunities for the public to join skilled birders from the Williamsburg area on guided bird walks through the park, and to come out year round to enjoy our nature!

Walks were led on Friday and Sunday by Jim Corliss, on Saturday by Shirley Devan and on Monday by Geoff Giles. Other VMN and bird club members also lent their eyes

and ears to the successful count. Among the highlights were sights and sounds of Bald Eagles, a Barred Owl, hundreds of Canvasback ducks and thousands of Ruddy Ducks, plus appearances by the Williamsburg Bird Club poster bird, the Red-headed Woodpecker!

Thank You, Wild Birds Unlimited!

A big thank you to George and Val Copping at Wild Birds Unlimited in Monticello Marketplace for a donation of \$515. This is based on sales to WBC members during the period of July–December 2011.

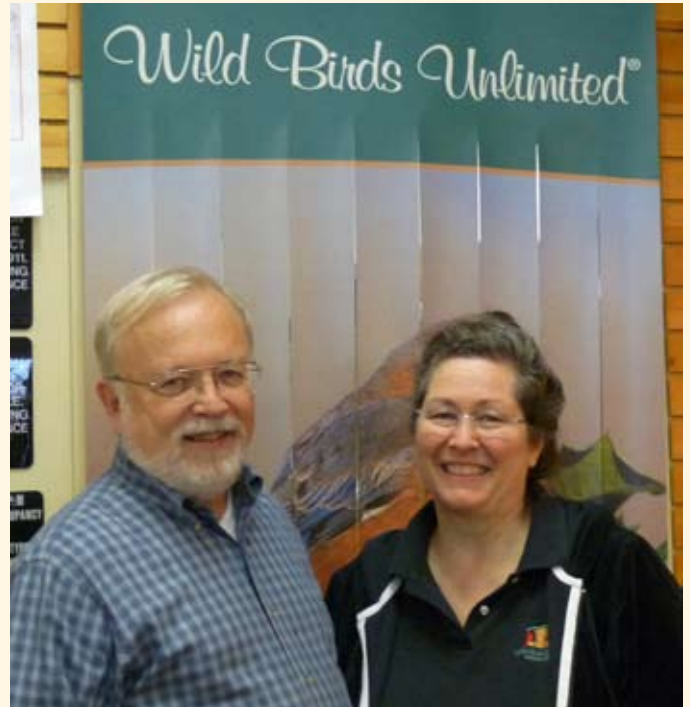


Photo by Shirley Devan

VSO Outer Banks Weekend

Article by Virginia Boyles

Photos by George Boyles

Warm, sunny skies gave good looks at birds for the first two days of the VSO Outer Banks field trip Feb. 3–5, 2012. There were 80 birders who contributed 135 species to the tally over the three days.

As we drove down Thursday, we stopped to admire a flock of about 300 Snow Geese in a lush green field. I'd hardly set up the scope when John and Marilyn Adair joined us after seeing us parked just off the main road. Shortly, a local driver also stopped to see what was going on, and when told we were looking at the geese (first I'd seen) and Tundra Swans, she said, "Oh, we have those all the time!"

After lunch at the Black Pelican and looking over the dunes at the Northern Gannets flying down the beach, we made our way to Jockey's Ridge for a spectacular view of water on both sides, but few birds.



White Ibis

Lee Adams led the trip to Lake Mattamuskeet on Friday, where many of the 55 participants saw the Common Gallinule and Black-crowned Night-Herons near the office. The Baltimore Oriole and Ruby-throated Hummingbird were at a bird feeder across the canal. Ducks and Coots were in the wetland marsh, and George photographed a Blue-winged Teal near the road. The nutria on the bank was less exciting, and the Belted Kingfisher fussed at us. White Ibis and Tundra Swans were across the road, as well as a very confused female Red-breasted Merganser who wanted to swim under the bridge, but was stopped when she spied the people on it. You could almost hear her heart racing as she gathered courage and took flight under the bridge. The tally showed 6 warbler species, including a Black and White, 3 wren species, and both Kinglets. The drive across

the lake yielded another Gallinule, an American Bittern that posed among cut reeds, and 4 White Pelicans in the scopes. The tally was near 100 for just the lake trip that night.

Saturday's weather was again amazing, and the birds came out to strut. At the stop by the marina, the Black-crowned Night-Herons were in the usual spot, but the American Bittern just beside the dock in reeds excited everyone. Oregon Inlet's Ipswich Sparrow wouldn't cooperate for our group, but a harbor seal came to check us out, and the Northern Gannets were displaying spectacular dives. Rumors of Razorbills proved true, as many birders got life birds atop the dunes across from the Pea Island Visitor's Center. The dolphins and Red-throated Loons were also putting on a show. The storm had damaged some of the areas where we usually see waterfowl, but there were still many



American Bittern

ducks and swans in the North Pond, and a Peregrine Falcon posed on a branch.

Bodie Island had a controlled burn on Friday, but the ducks still found the lake appealing, along with a Tri-colored Heron and several American Avocets. However, the Virginia Rail feeding beside and under the boardwalk, and the Swamp Sparrow who perched nearby, inspired much whispering and pointing from birders above them. The walk to the water past the smoldering landscape flushed another Black-crowned Night-Heron with an unexpectedly large wingspan, and a Snowy Egret waited for us beside the water. Two Great-horned Owls rewarded those who lingered for the owl prowl, with one flying just over George's head.



Immature White Ibis

Snow Goose



Sunday morning's rain was steady, but Meredith and Lee Bell took a group to Alligator River, where raptors were plentiful after the mist ended. Wilson's Snipes, Savannah and Fox Sparrows, Tree Swallows, and Ring-necked Ducks were sighted. We chose to return home by the 45 minute ferry ride to Mackay Island, and were escorted across the Intercoastal Waterway by Common Terns and gulls. Canada Geese and Ruddy Ducks awaited our arrival, and huge numbers of Snow Geese were in the marsh beside the road as we drove north. A Northern Harrier and immature Bald Eagle soared overhead, and ducks filled the wet areas.

Thanks to Lee Adams, Meredith Bell, Bill Akers, and Jerry Via for heading the field trips and providing such strong leadership for the weekend. We are looking forward to a repeat trip next year.

A Birding Paradise

Article by Gary Carpenter

Editor's Note: The Carpenters have agreed to running this article over several issues of The Flyer.

Is there such a thing? A place where birders can encounter a huge diversity of un-imagined avian beauty; where they have an excellent chance of adding a dozen birds to their life lists each morning...before breakfast; where entire families of birds, not just species, could make them gasp in wonder? Yes, there is...Costa Rica.

White-fronted Parrot



Photo by Roger Melendez Pereira

In February, Ann and I took a Road Scholar (nee Elderhostel) tour called "Birding the Hotspots of Costa Rica" and found that it was, indeed, a birding paradise. While our trip to the Galapagos Islands in 2010 was a thrill (and should not be missed) Costa Rica proved to be so rich a birding experience that we were left staring at our daily list of sightings with an amazement that bordered on disbelief. Given the space limitations for this article there is no practical way to list all of the species we saw. What follows is a brief description of each of the areas we visited and a listing of some of the species seen in those spots.

We arrived in San Jose after dark. Early the next morning we met our fellow travelers and our terrific guide, Roger Melendez Pereira. We started our birding with a walk around the Buena Vista hotel grounds before breakfast and quickly spotted Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, White-crowned Parrots, Rufous-naped Wrens and Blue-Gray Tanagers. After breakfast and an excellent introductory lecture on "Birding in the Topics" we were off by bus to the Pacific tropical lowlands and the Tarcoles River Basin. The air-conditioned bus was quite comfortable and our driver, Marvin,

was adept at getting around on what proved to be some very difficult roads. Our destination was the Villas Lapas Hotel, near Carara National Park and the Pacific Ocean. On the way Roger had Marvin pull the bus off the busy highway in order for us to have a look at Scarlet Macaws, Northern Jacanas and a Yellow-headed Caracara. Shortly after arriving at the hotel we were off on the first of a number of river cruises, this one on the Rio Tarcoles. It was on that trip that we started to rapidly fill our field journal with huge numbers of “new” species. Among others we saw: a Black-headed Trogon, three Kingfishers (Amazon, Belted and Green); Bare-throated Tiger Heron, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Peregrin Falcon,



Photo by Roger Melendez Pereira

Photo by Ann Carpenter



Turquoise-browed Motmot

Roseate Spoonbill, Boat-billed Heron, Crested and Yellow-headed Caracaras, and Neotropic Cormorants.

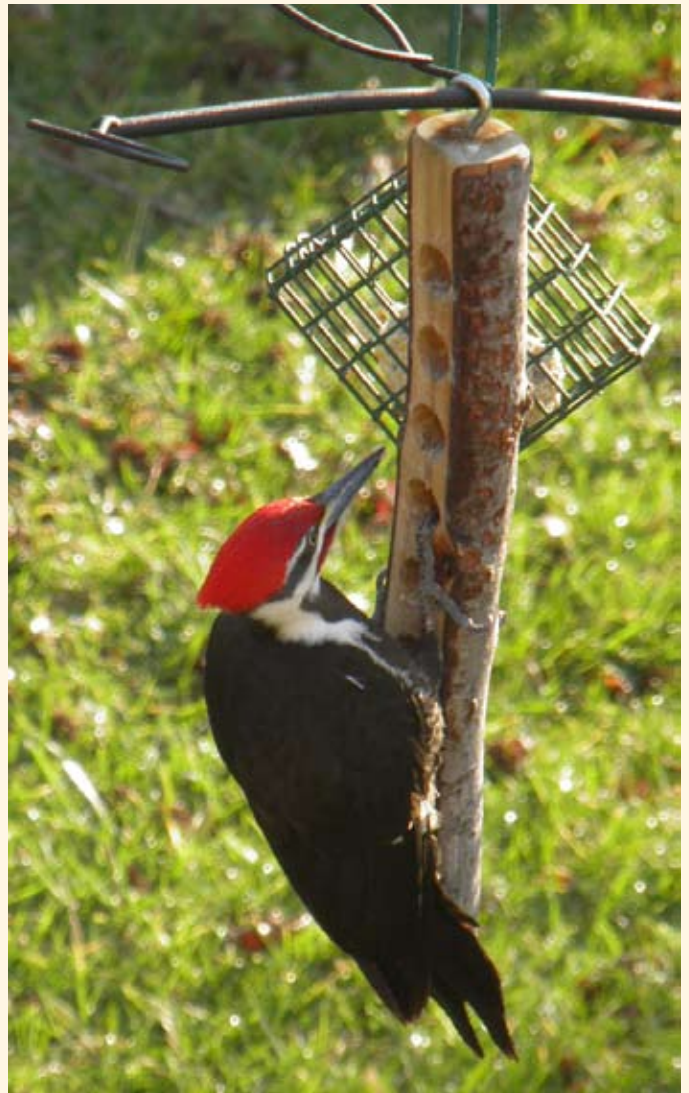
The next morning we discovered what our routine would be for the rest of the trip—up well before sunrise in order to be on the birding grounds as dawn broke. We gathered at the “coffee station” at o’dark thirty and started walking the grounds of Villas Lapas as the sun rose. On this walk we saw a Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Clay-colored Thrush, Golden-Hooded Tanager, Great Kisdadee, White-necked Jacobin Hummingbird and a Masked Tityra. At seven we sat down to breakfast on the hotel’s open veranda and one of our party gave a cry of surprise and brought her field glasses up and said “Oh, my”. We all turned to look and there, high in the trees, were three birds; two Chestnut-mandibled Toucans and a Fiery-billed Aracari (also a toucan). After breakfast we took a short bus ride and then a long walk along trails in the Carara National Park. Species seen there included the Great Tinamou, Royal Flycatcher, Red-legged Honeycreeper and Chesnut-backed Antbird. It was very hot and humid but very “birdy” and Roger told us that the Royal Flycatcher was a rare find! That afternoon we took the Villa Lapas Skywalk, which involved crossing five swaying cable suspension bridges over deep stream gorges. Our big find for the afternoon was a beauty, the Rufous-tailed Jacamar. Other birds on this walk were Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Dusky Antbird and Buff-throated Foliage Gleaner.

(to be continued in the April Flyer)

Photos from Members



These Cedar Waxwings were photographed by Shirley Devan on Jamestown Island.



John & Marilyn Adair sent in this photo of a Pileated Woodpecker that was visiting their backyard bark butter bar.



George Boyles took this photo of Wilson's Snipe at Messick Point in Poquoson

WBC February Walks

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

February 11th bird walk at New Quarter Park

Twelve other birders joined leader Hugh Beard on a gloomy morning for the walk at NQP. The group found a total of 30 species.



Left to right (seated): Bob Long, Cynthia Long, Joanne Andrews

Left to right (Standing): Hugh Beard, Audrey Root, Regina Root, Tom McCary, David Dafashy, Virginia Boyles, David Taylor, Susan Nordholm. Missing from photo is Margaret Ware.

Photo by George Boyles

Dutch Gap Field Trip, February 18, 2012 Article and photos by Shirley Devan

“Wood Ducks!” “Male Wood Ducks!” “Do you have them in the scope?” “Ooooh, let me see. It’s a year bird for me!” “More Wood Ducks to the right, in the back.” “Why don’t they come closer?” “Find me a snipe.” “The Osprey is carrying nesting material.” “Oh... just more Wood Ducks.” When we get tired of looking at Wood Ducks, we know we’ve had a good morning birding!

When our caravan arrived at Dutch Gap overlooks, the mist and fog were just about to clear. The sun was almost high enough to burn it off, but for a few minutes the group enjoyed a surreal look at the large swamp.





By the time we got our scopes adjusted and binoculars in place, the fog had cleared and the hundreds of waterfowl were clearly visible over the entire swamp.

Fifteen Bird Club members arrived about 9 am and enjoyed very good looks at Wood Ducks, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern Shovelers, Ring-necked Ducks, American Coot, and Pie-billed Grebe. We spied just 3 Northern Pintails foraging in the grass and they continued to play hide-and-seek throughout the morning.

Other good finds as we occupied the observation platforms: Osprey, Great Blue Herons, Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Kestrel, and Eastern Phoebe.

We made our way to the parking lot (and restroom breaks) and were surprised to see a mature Bald Eagle sitting on a branch above the parking lot. Just about everyone who wanted photos was able to get one of the eagle, who posed patiently before heading off for lunch.

Speaking of lunch, eight of the birders went for nice lunch at the Dockside Restaurant, on the Hopewell side of the Benjamin Harrison Bridge.

I entered the day's birds— 37 species— in the Great Backyard Bird Count web site. Many thanks to Geoff Giles, Jim Corliss, and everyone else for their keen eyes and spotting scopes. Dutch Gap is a great spot to learn wintering waterfowl in Virginia and it is open to the public at no charge. I encourage you to visit on your own and take time to explore the woodland trail behind the Visitor Center/Restrooms.



Seated(l-r): Joanne Andrews, Cathy Millar, Jennifer Trevino, Sharon Plocher, Virginia Boyles, Marilyn Adair, Rosemarie Harris. Standing (l-r): George Harris, Alex Andrews, George Boyles, Geoff Giles, Tom McCary, Jim Corliss, John Adair.

CBBT Island Hopping and Eastern Shore , 2/25/2012

By Geoff Giles Photos by Inge Curtis

Hampton Roads Bird Club offered our club a chance to join them for what turned out to be a memorable day of birding on the Bay and the Eastern Shore. Although it was sunny all day, it was extremely windy and consequently felt chilly most of the time. That did not dampen spirits as we visited the four bridge islands and viewed seabirds, harbor seals and otters (yes, otters!!) bobbing, feeding and sometimes frolicking in the wind-tossed waters.

Bird of the day was doubtless the Peregrine Falcon who appeared out of the blue overhead and swooped into the midst of masses of gulls and ducks in the lee of one of the islands. He was seen shortly afterwards perched in the midst of a long



row of apparently unconcerned gulls. Were they unworried because they had just seen him have his fill to eat? We missed that part, but soon thereafter he climbed steeply into the stiff wind to hover about fifty feet directly over us again, before launching a long descent towards a flock of gulls near the channel. The views of his first swoop were unforgettable!!

Northern Gannet



Sightings from the islands included many Northern Gannets, Surf and Black Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, Red-breasted Mergansers, Double-crested Cormorants, all the common gulls plus a Lesser Black-backed, Purple Sandpipers and more. Island #3 was full of harbor seals, which hopped off the rocks and swam over to frolic and check us out. I guess they couldn't believe we were there bracing against the wind to enjoy their antics. Later, on Island #1 we viewed a pair of playful otters near the rocks, which entertained us by splashing and playing tag on the surface and then tuned us out and pursued otter-style romance in the waves. Wow—some finale!!

Stops on the shore included the Eastern Shore NWR, Mag-otha Road, Mrs. Bull's Farm, Willis Wharf, and Oyster. The

latter two proved the birdiest, and we saw many Marbled Godwits, Long and Short-billed Dowitchers, Willets, Buffleheads, Black Ducks, ruddies, Red-breasted Mergansers, hoodies, Greater Yellowlegs, kingfisher, Great Blue Herons, Northern Harriers, Dunlins and more.

In the near miss department, Susan Powell's visiting Painted Bunting was at her feeder that morning while we were on CBBT but did not return later to perform for us. Similarly the Eurasian Collared-Dove took the day off, and the Snowy Owl sighted recently did not cross our path. Some kestrels, red-tails and majestic eagles did, along the way, and their soaring was highlighted against a clear blue sky!

We paused for some relaxation and enjoyment of hospitality, Eastern Shore style, at Stingray's eatery. No discouraging words were heard around the tables. The food was good, the lies were mostly true and batteries were charged so that all finished a rigorous but enjoyable day none the worse for wear!

Our WBC contingent included Dr. Mitchell Byrd, Bill Williams, George and Virginia Boyles, John and Marilyn Adair, Ruth and Deane Gordon, Cheryl Jacobson, Jan Lockwood, Ron Giese and guest Sylvia, Inge Curtis and trip leader Geoff Giles. Two students from William and Mary's Biology Department, Corbett Wicks and Matt Feresten also joined our group. Our special thanks to Jane Frigo and her friends at Hampton Roads Bird Club for sharing this excellent day, and many thanks to one and all for great birding camaraderie!

February 25th bird walk at New Quarter Park

Eleven other birders joined leader Hugh Beard on a windy morning for the walk at NQP. They had great looks at Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers. The group found a total of 30 species. No group photo was taken.

Brown Pelican



More Photos from Members



While at the College Creek Hawkwatch on February 27th, Bill Williams was able to take this photo of a Red-tailed Hawk.



George Boyles took this photo of a Horned Lark on February 9 at Craney Island.



Northern Cardinal photographed by Fred Blystone on 2/2.



Shirley Devan took this photo of Jeanne Armour, Tom Armour, Fred Blystone, Brian Taber, Susie Engle and Cherie Aukland at the College Creek Hawkwatch on February 24.



This Northern Mockingbird did not fly off when Fred Blystone put his mail in the mail box..



George Boyles photographed this Great Horned Owl at Bluebird Gap Farm in Hampton on February 23.



Inge Curtis caught this Bald Eagle having a fish dinner (or breakfast or lunch).



This Northern Gannet was photographed by Inge Curtis during the CBBT field trip on February 25.

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.



March's photo



February's photo was of Killdeer eggs

CALENDAR

Thursday, March 8	HRBC Monthly Meeting, 7 PM. Brent Slaughter will present a program titled <i>Birds of South Dakota</i> , Check www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org for further information.
Saturday, March 10	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM. Geoff Giles, Leader.
Saturday, March 10	HRBC Field Trip, Malvern Hills Battlefield, Check www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org for further information
Saturday, March 10	Bird Outreach at Wild Birds Unlimited at 1 PM. See page 3 for more information.
Saturday, March 10	Bird Walk at Shirley Plantation, see page 3 for further information
Wednesday, March 14	WBC Monthly Meeting, See front page for information.
Saturday, March 17	WBC Field Trip to New Kent Forestry Center, See page 2 for information
Sunday, March 18	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Sunday, March 24	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Bill Williamsburd, Leader
Sunday, April 29	WBC Spring Bird Count. See Page 4
May 18–20	VSO Joint Meeting with Tennessee Ornithological Society, www.vabirds.net for info
June 15–17	VSO Summer Field Trip to Front Royal, www.vabirds.net for info