



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 36, No. 4

www.williamsburgbirdclub.org

April 2012



President's Corner By Shirley Devan

The height of optimism is to support education!

In March the Williamsburg Bird Club awarded three ornithology research grants named for Bill Sheehan and Ruth Beck. Each grant is \$500. The three recipients are graduate students in biology at William and Mary, and their research topics are:

- Morgan D. Niccoli: "Is Occupancy Modeling a Feasible Alternative to Collecting Demography Data?"
- Jessica Ebers: "The Effect of Methylmercury on Immune Response to a Common Parasite in Songbirds"
- Courtney Turrin: "Negative Feedback Effects of Population Saturation in Bald Eagles in the Chesapeake Bay"

Since December, members have contributed \$800 to support these research grants. These contributions are over and above membership dues. **Thank you** for your generous support and the investment in the future.

These students will describe their research at one of our spring meetings in 2013! Stay tuned.

Welcome to New Members

Joshua & Veronica Erlich, Mary Meier and Susan Nordholm

April Meeting

Join us Wednesday, April 18 for *Calypso Birding in Trinidad & Tobago*, a presentation by Randy Thrasher that features the birds and sights that Randy and his wife Sue enjoyed while traveling in that country of two islands in the summer of 2009. Randy is a VSO Life Member and has become passionate about videotaping birds and other animals. He and his wife have had an opportunity to go to far-away places to bird. Smaller birds are not often seen in nature presentations because of the difficulties with video recording them, and this is Randy's greatest interest.

Plan to join us on April 18 at 7:30 PM in **Room 150, Millington Hall** on the W&M campus. Lois Ullman will

be providing the refreshments. **Don't forget to use your parking permit.**

April Field Trip

By Geoff Giles

This should be a great one! Bob Ake will lead us into (and hopefully out of!) the one and only Dismal Swamp in prime warbler time. We can expect to see prothonotaries, prairies, palms, common yellowthroats and more. Bob advises that our trip is also in prime time for a chance to see and hear the grail bird for the Swamp—the elusive and sought-after Swainson's warbler!

You will recall Bob's recent presentation to our club on his sensational Big Year. Bob is not only a premier birder, he is a true expert on the Swamp, which is not far from his home. He recommended a **Sunday trip**, so we will have the warblers more to ourselves, since they are in spring migration plumage and voice and the Swamp will be jammed with other birders on Saturday. So Sunday it is!

We will begin by birding Jericho Ditch, an area which has yielded spectacular sightings for us in the past. Bob will continue after the first area, for those who are inclined to see more of the Swamp's treasures, to lead us through either Washington Ditch or Railroad Ditch. Bob will be up to date on what we can expect to see and hear in those other reaches of the Swamp. Don't overlook your favorite mosquito repellent for the early hours.

We will depart from **Colony Square at 6 AM on the morning of 22 April** and carpool down to Jericho Ditch. Please pack lunch and beverages, as there are no places nearby to purchase those. There are restrooms at our stops in the swamp. For anyone planning to come on your own, please meet us at the gate for the entrance road to Jericho Ditch no later than 7 AM. The number of cars permitted is limited and we will have a group pass for the day.

This should be an excellent day's birding! No need to RSVP and no limit on numbers of our members who may participate. Feel free to contact Geoff Giles for any questions via email at tylerandal2@aol.com or phone at 757-645-8716. Hope to see you there!

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 (<i>The Flyer</i>)	229-4346
Fred Blystone	<i>fmb19481@verizon.net</i>
Treasurer	221-6683
Ann Carpenter	<i>gac17D@juno.com</i>
Secretary	229-9764
Jennifer Boag	<i>Jaboag@cox.net</i>
Member-at-Large	221-8506
Geoff Giles	<i>tylerandal2@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	221-8506
Geoff Giles	<i>tylerandal2@aol.com</i>
Records & Bird Counts	229-1124
Bill Williams	<i>juwil2@wm.edu</i>
Library Liaison	565-6148
Lee Schuster	<i>dljschuster@cox.net</i>
Refreshments	565-0250
Barb Streb	<i>gandbstreb@verizon.net</i>
Membership/Webmaster	565-2597
Jeanette Navia	<i>jnavia@gmail.com</i>
Adopt-A-Highway	566-2615
John Fennell	<i>mafjjf07@netzero.net</i>
Historian	Open

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.

March 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!

March 1 Dan Cristol took the ornithology class from W&M over to Hog Island. He reported the highlights were 4 American Avocets, American Pipits, Osprey, Tree Swallows, 2 Lesser and 1 Greater Yellowlegs and over 30 Bonaparte's Gulls (these seen from the ferry). There were also good numbers of Tundra Swans, Ring-necked Ducks, American Coots, Green-winged Teal and a few Mallards, Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails, American Wigeon, Hooded Mergansers and Gadwall.

March 3 From Alex Minarik: "A pair of Carolina Wrens were busy building a nest in our dining room window flower box. At close range from the inside of the window, we watched them bringing leaves, pine needles, and moss and arranging the materials into a domed nest. This is the usual spot for the wrens but the earliest that I can recall that they started nesting."

March 5 Lee Schuster has a female Purple Finch at her feeder.

March 6 Geoff Giles and Virginia & George Boyles joined Jane Frigo and other members of the Hampton Roads Bird Club for a walk in Newport News Park. Jane reports "ducks were well represented and a lift off of Tundra Swans was beautiful against the gray skies. The most memorable sighting of the morning was a group of nearly thirty Black and Turkey Vultures perched in the trees at the Stable Road area." A total of 51 species were recorded.

March 7 Shirley Devan reports that while crossing the isthmus to Historic Jamestowne she found a lone Laughing Gull floating in the water with 14 Ring-billed Gulls.

March 14 Brian Taber noted the College Creek Hawk Watch's first Royal Tern of the season.

March 15 From Bill Williams: "A Yellow-throated Warbler gave the College Creek Hawk Watch crew, Fred Blystone, Brian Taber and myself, a vocal hint of spring today."

March 17 Shirley Devan birds the trail at the Warhill Sports Complex. Highlights of the 18 species seen were a Red-headed Woodpecker and Osprey building a nest on a light tower near the ball field.

March 19 Bettye Fields, John & Marilyn Adair and Virginia & George Boyles joined Jane Frigo and other birders for the HRBC walk at Newport News Park. Sixty-nine species were noted during a beautiful morning, including Great Horned Owl, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and 7 species of woodpeckers.

March 20 Alex Minarik joins Bob Ake on one of his walks at the Jericho Ditch in the Great Dismal Swamp. Among the 39 species identified were 70 Rusty Blackbirds, 3 Common Yellowthroats and 2 Louisiana Waterthrushes.

March 21 George & Rosemarie Harris bird in Mathews County and Gloucester County. Among the birds reported from Bethel Beach in Mathews were 5 Clapper Rails, 2 Ruddy Turnstones, 6 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows and 2

Seaside Sparrows. At Beaverdam Park in Gloucester County they find, among 26 species, 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, 2 Louisiana Waterthrushes and 2 Yellow-throated Warblers.

March 22 Shirley Devan has her FOY Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at the Warhill trail followed by another one in her yard on the 23rd.

March 26 Brian Taber reports that he and Tom Armour saw the first Northern Gannet ever seen at the College Creek Hawkwatch. This is the first record for James City County.

March 27 The five birders who joined Bob Ake on a walk along Railroad Ditch in the Great Dismal Swamp included Alex and Mike Minarik. The six mile walk turned up 40 species including 1 Black-and-white Warbler, 4 Ovenbirds, 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and 4 Wild Turkeys.

March 28 Bill Williams and Brian Taber had a Chimney Swift at the College Creek Hawkwatch. Jan and John Lockwood report an adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at the Queens Lake Marina.

March 29 George Harris has 3 Northern Parulas singing in his Gloucester County yard.

March 30 George & Rosemarie Harris find 5 warbler species at the north entrance to Beaverdam Park, including the first of season Ovenbird.

The Williamsburg Spring Bird Count-Sunday, April 29, 2012

By Bill Williams

Just as much as we can count on our dogwoods and daffodils to bloom every spring, we can count on the Williamsburg Bird Club to hold its annual Spring Bird Count. This year our full day of searching out and tallying the Historic Triangle's spring birdlife will be on Sunday, April 29.

Structured along the same parameters as the Christmas Bird Count, we will endeavor to send teams to all corners of a 15-mile diameter circle centered at the Colonial Williamsburg Information Center. Each team's goal is to identify and count every individual of as many bird species as possible within the 24-hour period. Teams will be divided among sections leaders, just like those for the Christmas Bird Count. Each section leader will work with team members to establish a plan of action for the day, and will be responsible for reporting the section totals for the count's final tally.

This Spring our count compilation event will be at Carrot Tree Kitchens on Jamestown Road, exactly where we held a comparable event for the Christmas Bird Count. We will assemble at Carrot Tree at 5:00 p.m. with the final tally beginning no later than 6:00 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in the Spring Bird Count, for part of the day or all day, please contact Bill Williams jwwilz@wm.edu or 229-1124. If you are already part of one of the count section teams please contact the team's leader and let Bill know you will participating. We are really anxious to get as many people involved as possible, **especially feeder watchers!** We can never have enough birders, so please join us!

Thanks in advance for being a part of this grand spring event. The data we collect has significant value for the long term understanding of our local bird populations.

Community Impact Awards

Our Club president, Shirley Devan, was selected by WHRO to receive one of six 2012 Community Impact Awards. Her award was in the category of the Environment. The award brings a \$1000 donation to the organization of her choice. She has decided to divide the award between the Williamsburg Bird Club and the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Organization (for their 50th Anniversary).

Shirley says that Roger Gosden was kind enough to nominate her and that Susan Powell and Bill Williams were generous in their support in writing letters of recommendation.

We should all be very proud of Shirley for receiving this award and very thankful for all of the work she does for the environment.

Two Birding Programs at Freedom Park

Bird Program for Children—April 21, 2012

Williamsburg Botanical Garden in Freedom Park, 10:00-11:30 AM. A program for children on identifying birds will be presented by Jane Frigo, local bird enthusiast and retired pre-school teacher. Mrs. Frigo will help children learn to identify the birds they will see in their own backyards by using color and sound. Children will also make their own bird feeder to take home. The program is free and open to the public, but online registration is required at www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org.

Contact Barb Dunbar 880-8875, twotac@cox.net for more information.

Bluebirds and More—April 21, 2012

An adult walk and talk will be held in the Interpretive Center at Freedom Park 10:00-11:30 AM. Shirley Devan, Certified Virginia Master Naturalist and Williamsburg Bird Club President will lead a fact-filled workshop about the habits of the bluebird family season by season and how several local groups are monitoring bluebird trails in our area. After the talk, Shirley will lead a walk through the

Williamsburg Botanical Garden and the Freedom Park area to view the visiting birds. This program is for adults 18 or older. There is no cost, but registration is required at www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org.

Contact Shirley Devan at 757-813-1322 for more information.

New Quarter Park Cabin Fever Event



Cheryl Jacobson, Shirley Devan, Jan Lockwood and Lois Ullman manned the Williamsburg Bird Club and the Master Naturalist "booth" at the NQP Cabin Fever Event on March 24th.

WBC Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup



The spring cleanup of our Croaker Road site took place on Saturday, March 31. John Fennell (program coordinator), Jennifer Boag, Shirley Devan and Geoff Giles picked up nine bags of trash.

The Great Backyard Bird Count

By Shirley Devan

Whew! It was a whirlwind weekend, trekking around the Williamsburg area to count birds at some of our birdiest spots. From conversations I've had with many of you, I know you were out there too, counting your yard birds,

April 2012

your neighborhood birds, and your favorite patches. I submitted 15 checklists for the four day period.

In Virginia, we ranked just behind Richmond for the most checklists submitted. See the graphic below from the GBBC web site for Virginia checklists:

Locality	Number of Species	Number of Checklists
Richmond	95	323
Williamsburg	108	281
Virginia Beach	122	243
Midlothian	62	113
Alexandria	77	100
Sterling	61	94
Charlottesville	56	87
Fairfax	57	79
Yorktown	95	66

Our neighbors in Yorktown recorded 66 checklists. If we add their lists to ours, then the Williamsburg-Yorktown area wins for the entire state of Virginia and we would be sixth in the entire U.S. for the number of checklists with 347. **Way to go birders!** Keep up the good work! Congratulations on a job well done!

Photo from Member



Fred Blystone took this photo of a Northern Cardinal on March 2.

An Eastern Shore Adventure

By Virginia Boyles

Photos by Inge Curtis

Wednesday, March 7, was windy with a high in the 40s. Not a great day to be on the beach, but Inge Curtis and George Boyles wanted to spend the day at Assateague Beach photographing birds, and they let me tag along. The water at Tom's Cove had Northern Shovelers and Tundra Swans, though not in huge numbers. After feeling a little let down that there were no Snow Geese, we walked down the beach past workers replenishing sand and repairing the parking lots from last year's storm. There at the edge of the ocean were two little plovers, patting the wet sand with one foot and munching treats they stirred up. Turned out we were seeing the Piping Plovers on the first day of their return for nesting season, and the ranger at the office was quite excited over Inge's photograph.

Piping Plover



Great Egret

After waiting for the wildlife trail to open at 3:00, we found the Bald Eagle's nest where a 2nd chick had hatched that morning, and caught glimpses in the scope of a white head over the nest's edge. We'd seen the nest on the web cam at the visitor's center. We missed the large number of Green-winged Teal another birder saw beyond the nest. We stopped for the Yellow-rumped Warbler flock, but saw mostly Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets. Before leaving for the day, we made one last ride out to the beach, to be greeted by a flock of about 50 Marbled Godwits, along with Willets, Dunlin, and Sanderling who landed close enough for photographs. Soon 9 Red-breasted Mergansers came over to display their technique of rushing along just under the surface catching dinner. The Bald Eagle flushed everything on the

Black-headed Gull



pond except the swans, but they returned shortly, and a pair of Northern Shovelers swam over to be sure we had a chance to photograph them. I dismissed the bird flying with the Bonaparte's Gull as a returning Laughing Gull whose head hadn't quite become completely black for summer. Later, Nick Flanders emailed that he'd been there the same day, and seen a Black-headed Gull with the Bonaparte's. Sure enough, when I looked in the book, the gull we saw had those same red legs and bill. Never be too quick to dismiss what you think is a common bird, and thankfully Inge got photos of both gulls. It was another memorable day of birding, and the plovers completed my quest for seeing all of the birds on my shore-birds tee shirt.

Tundra Swans



A Birding Paradise

Article by Gary Carpenter

Editor's Note: This is Part 2 of the Carpenter's description of their trip to Costa Rica.

The following day was a “move” day. . . off to another area of the country and another hotel, but, as was the routine, we took an early morning bird walk before breakfast. This one was along the river that flows right through the Villas Lapa and we saw: a Bare-throated Tiger-Heron; White-tipped Doves; a Pale-billed Woodpecker; Viola-ceous Trogon, and one of my favorites, a Long-tailed Manikin. After breakfast we were back on the bus and headed for La Ensenada wild-life reserve on the northeastern shore of the Gulf of Nicoya. On the way we saw Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and we discovered that this was the land of Anis, both Groove-billed and Smooth-billed. On the way into the reserve we stopped to see Tri-colored Munias; Thick-billed Euphonias, and White-collared Seedeaters. We arrived at the Lodge in time for lunch and discovered that there were “resident” visitors to their outdoor restaurant. . . a pair of raucous White-throated Magpie Jays.



Even though it is on the coast of the Gulf of Nicoya, Ensenada Reserve is dry savannah plain. One member of our tour equated the environment there with the African veldt. During our late afternoon walk around the grounds we spotted: White-fronted Parrots, a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Montezuma's Oropendolas; a Cinnamon Hummingbird; White-necked Puffbird; and Orange-fronted Parakeets. Our birding day was not over. After dinner Roger took us on an owling foray and, not far from the Lodge, he was able to successfully call up two Pacific

Screech Owls. Early the following morning we boated in the Gulf of Nicoya and one of its tributary rivers. The only “new” bird for the morning was a Rose-throated Becard, but we also saw Tri-colored Herons, Least Sandpipers, and Short-billed Dowitchers. That afternoon we took a lengthy (and bouncy) ride in a single axle cart that was towed behind a large farm tractor around the pasture lands surrounding La Ensenada. But we were rewarded by spotting: a Yellow-throated Euphonia; Squirrel Cuckoo; a pair of Double-striped Thickknees; and Lesser Nighthawks.

Our next location was Cano Negro (literally, Black Swamp), a protected wetlands (and Ramsar site) in the tropical rainforest of north central Costa Rica. Cano Negro is just south of Nicaragua and its lagoon and main tributary, Rio Fria, are fed from Lake Nicaragua. Getting there was an adventure involving about 30 kilometers of unpaved and deeply rutted roads. On the way to Cano Negro we spotted: Melodious Blackbirds; a Spot-breasted Oriole; Yellow-bellied Elaenia; Black-bellied Whistling Ducks (in the hundreds); a Black-cowled Oriole; and Olive-throated Parakeets. But, at the conclusion of the kidney-jarring ride, the Cano Negro Lodge proved to be very comfortable. . .and air-conditioned. On our afternoon walk, we sighted: Crimson-fronted Parakeets;



Black-throated Trogon



Photo by Roger Melendez Pereira

Bananaquits; the striking Passerini's Tanager; Cocoa Woodcreeper; and a Collared Arikari. The next morning we took the first of two boat trips on the Rio Fria and into the Cano Negro lagoon. On these trips we sighted: Nicaraguan Grackles; Gray-necked Wood Rails; Purple Gallinules; a Common Tody-flycatcher; Lined Woodpecker; Green Ibis; Fasciated Tiger-Heron; Black-crowned Tityra; Black-throated Trogon; and we were able to complete the family of Costa Rican Kingfishers with the American Pygmy Kingfisher and the Green-and-Rufous Kingfisher. In the evening, as we were returning to the docking area from the Cano Negro lagoon two large flocks of egrets and one of white ibises flew past our boat in the twilight of the setting sun. The scene was straight from a Disney movie and will long remain in our memories of this fabulous trip.

Moving day again. This time to La Selva Verde (Green Jungle) Lodge in the Sarapiquí region in Costa Rica's Caribbean lowlands. This was rain forest territory and one of the richest bird sites in Middle America with well over 400 recorded species. It was also the home of our guide, Roger, and after an afternoon of birding on the

Lodge's grounds, he took a well deserved night off and went home to visit his family. On the way into La Selva, Marvin and Roger stopped the bus so we could get a good look at a Laughing Falcon and, just before lunch, as Ann and I were walking to the dining room, we watched a Long-billed Hermit Hummingbird feeding on flowers on the Lodge grounds. La Selva Verde Lodge was one of the more exotic places we stayed on this tour. All the rooms were deep within the rain-forest and were set upon pillars in quadruplex layouts with their exteriors all in teak and sitting on teak decks. During the afternoon walk on the Lodge grounds we sighted: an Olive-backed Euponia, Broad-billed Motmot, White-breasted Wood-Wren, and a Wedge-billed Woodcreeper.

Broad-billed Motmot

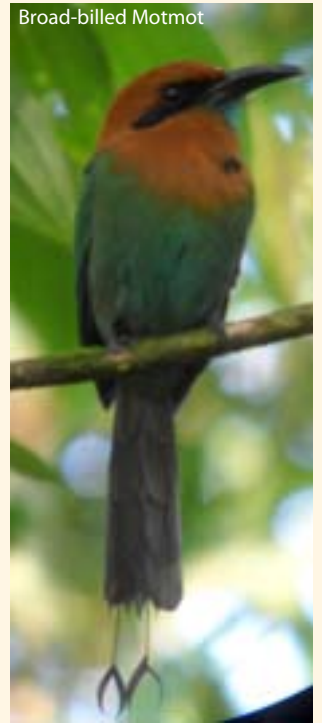


Photo by Roger Melendez Pereira

(to be continued in the May Flyer)

WBC March Walks

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

Bird Walk on 10 March at NQP

By Geoff Giles

Sixteen hardy participants lent their eyes and ears to our bird walk on a sunny but blustery day in our favorite park. The chill in the air seemed to cue the birds to stay quiet and cozy, except for five Bald Eagles, three Red-tailed Hawks and a Northern Harrier, all of which seemed delighted at a breeze they seemed to find ideal for hunting and soaring. They gave us some spectacular views, as did a gorgeous Red-headed Woodpecker, who stayed put in plain view for all to admire as he stuffed himself on grubs from a high snag.

The marsh at Queens Creek was unusually quiet and devoid of bird activity, with the exception of a nice raft of Red-breasted Mergansers which



Left to right (seated): Sue Nordholm, Betty Peterson, Cynthia & Bob Long, Jenny & Chris Curtis and Jan Lockwood. Left to right (Standing): Sara Lewis, Tom McCary, David Taylor, Deb Woodward, Anne Haupt, Leah Duckworth, Geoff Giles, Cheryl Jacobson and Janet Curtis.

seemed pleased with the fish offering in the creek and lingered a long time for all to admire. Two Ospreys sat snugly in a distant nest and seemed disinclined to test the wind. Otherwise, the chilly wind and slow pace of bird activity on the marsh caused us to shift our attentions to other sunny and more sheltered spots in the park. That proved a good formula for an enjoyable walk with good spirits.

Trip leader Geoff Giles was particularly grateful for the super spotting of Jenny Curtis, who contributed many of the best birds of the day. Although numbers of birds were lower than usual, we did finish the day with a respectable 28 species. Spring migrants and our breeding resident species are doubtless just around the corner! Thanks to one and all for making this an enjoyable outing on a beautiful day!



Shirley Devan led the 7am group of Boy Scouts.

Field Trip on 17 March to New Kent Forestry Center By Geoff Giles

Our club organized and led three bird walks in support of the “Walk in the Forest” activities at NKFC. Jim Corliss and Shirley Devan led walks at 7:00 and Geoff Giles and Roger Gosden led one for the Boy Scouts at 8:00. The weather smiled on all of our activities and the field and forest trails were particularly birdy!

Jim’s walk took the cake for the most species, including a Brown Creeper and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker that must have been stuffing themselves for the upcoming journey north for nesting. Jim also got an early Blue-gray Gnatcatcher which may have jumped the gun a bit in coming to his summer nesting territory early. Hope he finds some blue-gray gnats to catch!



Two active Osprey nests down at the cypress swamp on the Chickahominy Lake showed us a lot of activity by the resident Osprey pairs in bringing sticks and the occasional fish to their nest. This also drew the attention of a Bald Eagle who patrolled in the vicinity, obviously hoping to pilfer a fish for his breakfast! Several Wood Ducks were seen scurrying among the cypress knees, making sure not to attract the eagle’s attention.

There was a steady stream of Great Blue Herons flapping overhead between their large rookery in the east of the forestry center and their fishing grounds. They were also observed transporting nesting materials. One Red-tailed Hawk flew over and several Red-shouldered Hawks were heard.

There were Eastern Meadowlarks plus

lots of sparrows foraging on grass and weed seeds, including numerous Field Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Savannahs, chippies and at least one Tree Sparrow. And, oh yes, Juncos were still around and so were White Throats, just now practicing their songs for the upcoming nesting season farther north. Towhees were active and were also beginning to use their familiar “Drink your tea!” nesting song.

Among the most energetic birders were the Boy Scouts, many of whom were working on requirements for their Bird Studies Merit Badge. Although they were eager to see and hear the birds, and proved to have sharp eyes and ears, they also peppered Roger and Geoff with questions about



Chipping Sparrow

Taken by Inge Curtis

American Robin



Photo by Inge Curtis

each species' habitat needs, food preferences and migratory patterns. There were 45 scouts and troop leaders/parents in the 8:00 group!

In days prior to the event, in visiting NKFC to prepare, Geoff saw a troop of twelve Wild Turkeys and heard five different Barred Owls hooting loudly towards dusk. This is great and varied habitat, well managed for birds and wildlife as well as for forestry research and production. In addition to the privilege of birding some great territory not normally open to the public, many of us took home free native trees to plant compliments of the Department of Forestry and assisted with planting tips by Virginia Master Naturalist Volunteer friends. End of a perfect day at NKFC!

Bird Walk on March 24 at NQP

By Shirley Devan

We had 16 people at the Bird Walk this morning at New Quarter Park. Our leader, Bill Williams, was great in getting us on the birds. As good as he is, he had no control over the gnats chewing on us down at the floating dock. We finally had to adjourn to the shoreline to get away from the devouring masses. Jeanette Navia found the perfect place—under the redcedar tree! Bill counted 7 Clapper Rails yakking in the marsh but not one made an appearance on the mud flats. The Ospreys are busy building nests on just about anything that's standing in the water—whether it's stable or not. One unlucky bird was trying to place sticks on a large orange buoy in the channel without much success. A total of 47 species were identified during the walk.



Left to right (seated): Virginia Boyles, George Boyles, Cheryl Jacobson, Cathy Bond, Nelson Ensley, Shirley Devan . Left to right (Standing): Bill Williams, Jan Lockwood, Jim Booth, Ruth Gordon, Bringier McConnell, Joyce Lowry, Nancy Barnhart, Jim Corliss, Jeanette Navia and Geoff Giles.

Photos from Members



Carol O'Neil took this photo of a Brown-headed Nuthatch.



This photo of American Black Ducks was taken at Chincoteague/Assateague by George Boyles.



Carol O'Neil photographed this Yellow-throated Warbler March 16th on the Cypress Isle in Governor's Land.



American Robin—photographed by Fred Blystone on the Colonial Parkway.



Fred Blystone photographed this Hermit Thrush on the loop road on Jamestown Island.

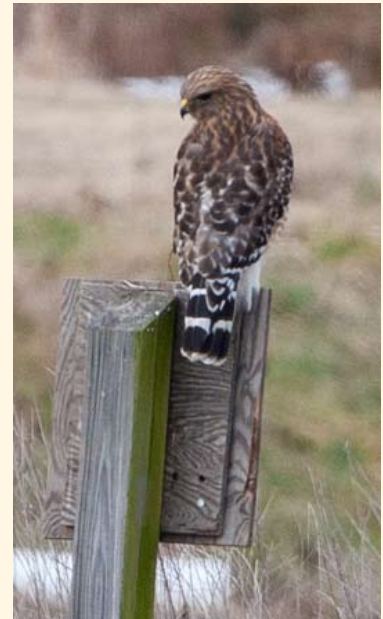
Bird ID from Recycle Bin Photos

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.



April's photo (taken in Williamsburg)



March's photo was of a Red-shouldered Hawk.

CALENDAR

Thursday, April 12	HRBC Monthly Meeting, <i>Peruvian Endemics</i> , a program by Bill Akers. For further info check www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org
Saturday, April 14	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM, Hugh Beard, Leader
Saturday, April 14	HRBC Field Trip, Fort Monroe. Check www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org for further info.
Sunday, April 15	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Wednesday, April 18	WBC Monthly Meeting. See front page for information.
Saturday, April 21	Two Birding Programs at Freedom Park. See Page 5 for information.
Sunday, April 22	WBC Field Trip to the Great Dismal Swamp. See front page for information.
Saturday, April 28	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader
Sunday, April 29	WBC Spring Bird Count. See Page 3.
Saturday, May 12	HRBC Spring Bird Count. Contact Clark White at cwbirds@cox.net or 757-875-7649 if you would like to participate.
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