



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 36, No. 6

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

June/July 2012



### President's Corner By Shirley Devan

**Save the Date:** April 26–28, 2013—  
VSO Annual Conference in Leesburg,  
VA. The keynote speaker will be Julie  
Zickefoose, writer, naturalist, NPR  
commentator, watercolor painter,

gardener, wife and mother. Her latest book is *The Bluebird Effect*. Here is a link to her blog:

<http://juliezickefoose.blogspot.com>.

In addition to Julie's presentation Saturday night of the conference, there'll be field trips and bird walks to the birdiest spots in Northern VA. **Yes**, there really are birdy spots in Northern VA. Having just returned from the 2012 VSO Annual Conference, I can attest to the fun and learning that goes on all weekend. Not to mention **birds!** You may even get a life bird or two because the field trip leaders know their area like the backs of their hands and will have the good birds staked out.

More details to come, of course. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar and check out Julie's blog!

### Welcome New Members

John Scowik and Chris Combs

### No Meetings in June, July or August

### Birding Opportunities in June

By Geoff Giles

The field trip to the Piney Grove area for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers on June 9th was limited to 15 participants and the slots are filled. On June 16, Jill Bieri and Less Schuster of Chesapeake Experience will lead a kayaking and birding trip on Queen's Creek from New Quarter Park. Fee is \$35 if you rent a kayak from Chesapeake Experience; \$25 if you bring your own. Maximum number is 18 people. Plan to arrive by 8:30 am. The group will begin the paddle at 9:00 am and be on the water for a couple of hours. Let Shirley Devan know by June 13 if want to participate in this fun venture and she will let Jill Bieri know how many kayaks to bring! You can pay Chesapeake Experience the morning of the trip. Please make your

reservation with Shirley: [sedevan52@cox.net](mailto:sedevan52@cox.net) or 757-813-1322. (See calendar on the back page for a complete listing of upcoming birding events).

### May 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/travels, please share!

**May 1. Mary Anne & John Fennell** had a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on their suet feeder, a first for their yard. **Jeanette Navia** had two male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks together in her yard.

**May 3. Ruth Beck, Bill Williams, Bob Ake, Alex Minarik, Brian Taber** and Dave Youker surveyed Craney Island Disposal Area. Among the 81 species identified were 1 Peregrine Falcon, 2 Virginia Rails, 1 Sora, 1 Black-necked Stilt, 34 Lesser Yellowlegs, at least 689 Least Sandpipers, and 1 White-rumped Sandpiper.

**May 4. Tom McCary** saw his FOS Blue Grosbeak on the entrance road to Shirley Plantation. Also saw a first year male Orchard Oriole and several others of the same species.

**May 5. Shirley Devan** had a male Common Yellowthroat in a boxwood adjacent to her garage. A first for her yard. **Mary Anne & John Fennell** had a Great Crested Flycatcher hanging out on their deck for over ½-hours. Checking a Bluebird box at New Quarter Park, **Lois Ullman** finds a black snake instead of the 3 chicks and a couple of eggs that had been in the nest the day before. **Kathi Mestayer** is treated to a pair of Baltimore Orioles near her house in Indigo Park. She also sees a Pine Warbler and an Indigo Bunting at Put-in Point on Morris Creek.

**May 6.** Jane Frigo writes (about HRBC Newport News Park walk): "A heavy mist hindered the early part of the park walk. Birds along the reservoir were hard to find through the precipitation, but the rather large group of birdwatchers were undaunted. Newcomers Jill and Derrick Wallis, Joshua and Dave Lauthers, Sandy Graham and Rick Knoroloski joined fellow birding regulars Bill Ferris, Mike Lowry, Tom Charlock, Cathy Bond, Eileen O'Toole, Richard Hudgins, Libby Carmines, Betsy Garrett, **Bettye Fields**, Anja Praesto,

## Officers

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<b>Records &amp; Bird Counts</b>	229-1124
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John Fennell	<i>mafjff07@netzero.net</i>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Open</b>

## 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.

Marc Nichols, Sharon Burton, Bryan Barmore and Jane Frigo, and were able to identify 74 species. First of season arrivals (FOS) included Green Heron, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Wood Thrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting and Orchard Oriole. Yellow-rumped Warblers were still hanging around rather unexpectedly but White-throated Sparrows were gone. The Downy Woodpecker spotted on previous walks was seen feeding young at the nest hole. Prothonotary Warblers were abundant and provided the group with excellent views. Beautiful male Wood Ducks were seen along with their young. Sparrows were scarce with only Chipping Sparrows seen." From **Kathi Mestayer**: "Mac just got back from Matoaka Woods where he saw several Black-throated Blue Warblers, a Veery, a Wood Thrush and he also heard Summer Tanagers." **Shirley Devan** reports a Black & White Warbler at her bird bath.

**May 10. Alex Minarik** photographed a Prothonotary Warbler drinking from her hummingbird feeder. **Tom McCary** had his FOS Great Crested Flycatcher at Shirley Plantation.

**May 12. Brian Taber** and **Fred Blystone** are treated to a Mississippi Kite that flies right over them at the College Creek Hawk-watch.

**May 13.** From Paddy's Knob in Bath County, **Alex Minarik** reports that she and **Mike** heard at least 2 Mourning Warblers; later in the morning they saw one about a mile beyond the knob along FR 55.

**May 17. Tom McCary** saw a Northern Bobwhite perched on a fence in the formal garden at Shirley Plantation. He has heard them every day he has worked there since then.

**May 19.** While walking near College Terrace, **Tom McCary** saw 2 Great Egrets flying from the direction of William and Mary Hall towards Richmond Road.

**May 20.** Jane Frigo writes: "The sun was shining when the Newport News Park walk began but shortly the weather changed. The morning was plagued with intermittent periods of a heavy mist. That didn't deter the morning's participants that included Elisa Enders, Richard Hudgins, Tom Charlock, Eileen O'Toole, Bill Ferris, Phyllis Roth, Stuart Sweetman, Cathy Bond, John Steinbach, Dorothy Sharpe, Jane Frigo, **Virginia and George Boyles**. As expected, Prothonotary Warblers were abundant as were Great Crested Flycatchers, Tufted Titmice and Carolina Chickadees, many of which appeared to be young fledglings. Osprey filled the skies and one was observed



eating a breakfast of fish on a limb near the Ranger Station Bridge. At the Arboretum, Elisa Enders spotted a Magnolia Warbler that was a highlight for the morning. An American Redstart was seen near the same location. Indigo Buntings were seen at the Discovery Center, but the Blue Grosbeak just couldn't be found. At the Swamp Bridge a beautiful male Orchard Oriole was seen. Hopefully he and a mate will nest in the area as in the past. 64 species were identified and it was still a **great** morning.”

**May 23.** **Tom McCary** saw 4 Blue Grosbeaks on the entrance road to Shirley Plantation. He also reports that he has not seen any Indigo Buntings there this year, which is not the norm. **Bill Williams, George & Virginia Boyles** and Dave Youker survey Grandview Beach. Among the 59 species that were identified were 16 Black-bellied Plovers, 12 American Oystercatchers, 63 Ruddy Turnstones, 1 Red Knot and 29 Black Skimmers.

**May 24.** During the survey at Craney Island Disposal Area, **Bill Williams, Bob Ake, Shirley Devan, Brian Taber** and a team from the Army Corps of Engineers found 60 species of birds including 2938 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 345 Least Terns, 1 Red-necked Phalarope and 2 Gull-billed Terns.

**May 25.** From Dave Youker: “This morning **John & Marilyn Adair** and I paddled around Harwood’s Mill Reservoir. One of the first birds we encountered was a first summer Black-crowned Night-Heron. Shortly after that sighting we found the male Anhinga sitting low in a cypress tree. He then flew to the top of another cypress, giving us great views. About a half hour later, we saw the female circle overhead. The biggest surprise was finding an adult Common Loon. This is the first time seeing this bird at the reservoir. I also think it’s late in the year for seeing a loon around this area.” **Bill Williams** and **Brian Taber** watched 6 Cattle Egrets pass the College Creek Hawkwatch.

**May 26.** Arriving home, **Tom McCary** comes upon a House Wren dive bombing a squirrel that was sitting under an occupied wren house. **Bill Williams** and **Brian Taber** were at the College Creek Hawkwatch as 3 Glossy Ibis passed by.

**May 30.** From **Virginia Boyles**: “The past couple of days, I have watched a young bird in the front yard calling to be fed. It flaps its wings frantically and calls for mama to feed its gaping mouth. At first I thought it might be a young robin, for it wasn't a small bird, but on closer inspection it wasn't. Finally, the parent came with food for it, and hurried away in search of more. Then I realized the tragedy I was watching. The baby is a Brown-headed Cowbird, and the emaciated parent is a tiny Chipping Sparrow about ¼-it's size. Imagine how hard it

is working to meet the demands of this chick! That sparrow must think she’s in a horror film already.”



**May 31.** Surveying at Craney Island Disposal Area, **Bill Williams, Ruth Beck, Brian Taber** and **Virginia & George Boyles** tallied 71 species, including 2 Black-necked Stilts, 6 White-rumped Sandpipers and 2 Short-billed Dowitchers.

### **Shirley Devan Receives Community Impact Award**

Our Club president, Shirley Devan, was selected by WHRO and Dominion Power 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)



Bill Williams, Shirley Devan, Susan Powell, and Roger Gosden. (Roger nominated Shirley for the Community Impact Award and Susan and Bill wrote letters of recommendation in support of the nomination.)  
Photo by Steve Devan.

## Western Shore Marshes Clean-up and Bird Survey

Article and photo by Dave Youker

On Saturday, 19 May, 22 people participated in the latest event in support of the Western Shore Marshes IBA. This bird survey and clean-up was held at Gosnold's Hope Park and was a joint venture between the Hampton Roads Bird Club, the Williamsburg Bird Club and the City of Hampton through their Hampton Clean City Commission. Other participants included master naturalist and 9 members from Scout Troop 18. The day was divided into two 2-hour segments. We conducted a bird survey during the first segment, and we identified 51 different species. Highlights included a nice view of a male and female Blue Grosbeak and several views of Brown-headed Nuthatches which is a species of interest for this IBA. The remaining participants showed for the second segment, and we canvassed the entire park. To be expected, the majority of the litter was found along the shoreline, which is subjected to tidal and storm surges. With the litter disposed of and species tallied, the members departed leaving this portion of the IBA in better condition. Thanks to the following bird club/naturalist members who were able to support this event: Bill Ferris, **Cheryl Jacobson**, **Jan Lockwood**, Jane Frigo, **Betty Peterson**, Sharon Burton, Bryan Barmore, Brent Slaughter, Laura Slaughter, Tom Charlock, and Ken Lipshy.



## VSO Annual Meeting, Johnson City, TN May 18–20, 2012

By Shirley Devan

*Editor's Note: This is Part 1 of Shirley's description of the 2012 VSO Annual Meeting.*

Four members of the Williamsburg Bird Club attended the Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology in Johnson City, Tennessee May 18–20. Jeanette Navia and I drove out Friday and found that John and Marilyn Adair had arrived the day before to participate in a pre-conference Friday field trip.

Whoa...why is the VIRGINIA Society for Ornithology meeting in Tennessee? A couple of years ago the VSO approached the Tennessee Ornithological Society about a joint meeting in a city near the border of our two states. Everyone agreed it was a good idea and decided that Johnson City was to be the headquarters for the weekend.

Over 400 miles separated those of us in the Williamsburg area from Johnson City. With stops, our drive took 8 hours; Jeanette and I shared driving duties.

The most important task when we arrived was to find who was selling VSO caps! I had learned that the VSO would have shirts and hats for sale at the conference and I wanted to make sure I purchased my cap before they ran out! Mission accomplished as soon as the table was set up! Both of us bought one and we wore them proudly over the weekend. I later learned that they ran out of hats very quickly.

The speaker for Friday night was Dr. Andrew Jones, Director of Science and Head of the Department of Ornithology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. "Why Do They Keep Changing My Field Guide" was the topic of this young scientist's presentation. He showed several images from the first and fifth editions of the National Geographic Field Guide—images separated by about 20 years. Not only were some of the birds' names different, but the depth and breadth of information presented for some species was surprisingly expanded. This extra information was the result of birders' and scientists' realizations that sometimes ID in the field requires pictures of the tail feathers or the primary wing feathers or pictures of each sex in each season, plus the juveniles, thus sometimes as many as 8 or 9 images for one species.

Dr. Jones had spent a few seasons early in the decade studying tern species in Siberia with other scientists. Their field studies and follow-up lab examination of specimens along with DNA analysis resulted in the rearranging of the taxonomic order for terns. The take-away message: scientists who propose rearranging the taxonomic order of birds with only the DNA argument will not be successful. Other factors such as song, geography, and physical characteristics must be

considered before birds change pages in a field guide. For me, it was the most interesting presentation of the weekend and I wish he had spent another hour on this topic.

Saturday, May 19, Jeanette and I chose the field trip to Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area on Roan Mountain. Our leader was Dr. Fred Alsop III, whom we later learned was the keynote speaker for Saturday night's banquet. The destination was about 50 minutes from the hotel and our caravan of 5 cars arrived at the edge of gated pastureland. The birding in the parking area was nothing to complain about: male and female Baltimore Orioles plus their nest hanging at the end of a tree branch. Then an Orchard Oriole in the same tree. We finally tore ourselves away from the parking lot and walked up the pastures to the edges of several fields in search of the target bird—Golden-winged Warbler. This beautiful jewel cooperated very nicely and early. He perched on a dead branch in the sun and sang his little heart out for about 15 minutes. All the scopes focused on this guy and all participants enjoyed long and satisfying looks at what was a life bird for many. Everyone relaxed a bit after that and we found the expected species: Indigo Bunting, Song Sparrow, Eastern Kingbird, Common Yellowthroat, Gray Catbird, White-eyed Vireo, Barn Swallow, Yellow Warbler and Red-winged Blackbird. We even spotted a Great Blue Heron flying over. Eventually, the Chestnut-sided Warbler, seen in our area only during migration, became a "trash bird" as we spotted quite a few on territory. Still, it was a wonderful bird to see, even for the 10th time that morning.

*(to be continued in the August Flyer)*



Photo by Shirley Devan



Photo by Jeanette Navia

Dr. Fred Alsop with 3 scopes pointed at the Golden-winged Warbler

## **The 2012 Spring Bird Count Summary**

**By Bill Williams**

Thunder. Lightning. Rain at 3:30AM followed by a chilly wind on a late April Sunday.....must be a bird count going on. You got it! Those conditions were Miss Meteorology's predawn sardonic best wishes for 29 April 2012. To that date the vernal bird migration had been nothing short of YUCK! So there was giddy pre-count anticipation; a great spring day maybe, just maybe, had to be in the offing. No such luck.....at least for the blustery weather anyway! We'd had better birding days in mid-winter, for bluebirds' sake!!!

But wait! If could we populate the Colonial Historic Triangle with as many birders as possible for 11+ hours on April 29, we would be eligible for an extra bonus, all at no additional cost! Don't delay! Get out there and bird! **Now!** Supplies are limited!

In fact, eager birder teams plus feeder and yard watchers did get out there..... all day and more, to give us not just a bonus for the 35th annual Williamsburg Bird Club Spring count, but many bonuses. Our 55 participants, the best turnout ever, counted 12,071 (average 8360) total birds across 159 species, six species more than the historic average of 153, and just seven less than the all-time high of 166. You can bet that no one on the morning of the count would have given us a hummingbird's hoot at accomplishing that. Among the individual species totals were an impressive 19 new all-time high counts (see table below). And, you should have heard the life bird and unexpected species stories during the compilation

conversations at Carrot Tree Kitchen. Here's looking at you, baby Barred Owl and sneaky American Woodcock! Delicious free food! Birding adventures! Bah, humbug to you Miss M!!

Species	2012 New High Count	Previous High Count and Date
Mallard	106	102 on 3 May 1987
Blue-winged Teal	18	16 on 6 May 1978
American White Pelican	22	one on 2 May 1982; 2 May 1992; 11 May 1997
Black Vulture	89	83 on 1 May 2011
Red-shouldered Hawk	17	13 on 1 May 1988
Bonaparte's Gull	62	58 on 28 Apr 1991
Downy Woodpecker	57	33 on 1 May 2011
Pileated Woodpecker	45	38 on 28 Apr 1991
Carolina Chickadee	230	169 on 1 May 2011
Tufted Titmouse	229	181 on 26 Apr 2009
Carolina Wren	188	137 on 29 Apr 2007 and 26 Apr 2009
Eastern Bluebird	202	177 on 6 May 1979
American Robin	509	451 on 1 May 2011
Gray Catbird	137	130 on 6 May 1978
Brown Thrasher	105	90 on 1 May 2011
Prothonotary Warbler	26	25 on 1 May 2011
Chipping Sparrow	203	148 on 7 May 1989
Northern Cardinal	503	414 on 1 May 2011
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	21	11 on 7 May 1989

Fifteen of the record-setting species above, including Red-shouldered Hawk, would readily be considered local “back yard” birds. Without a doubt their increased numbers this year were linked directly to the “around my house” reports turned in for the count day. But it was the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, not your typical feeder bird, that exemplified how valuable those eyes out the window were for this bird club citizen science effort. Seventeen of the 21 Rose-breasteds were at feeders, a third of those at ONE feeder! The Virginia birds list-serve was lit up for days with feeder stories of this species from all across the state. So our documentation was front and center for the late April through early May 2012 Rose-breasted Grosbeak migration through Tidewater. With homage to Bill Sheehan.....Good on us!

Our Hog Island team brought home the bacon with the day's most outstanding record. Twenty-two American White Pelicans anywhere in Virginia any time of the year is almost without precedent. Nineteen to 20 were present near Hopewell March 14-19, 2008, and a flock of 24 made a brief appearance off Fort Story in Virginia Beach November 17, 2008. The count-day collection at Hog was actually pretty much a stake-out happening, that is, we were confident they were there ahead of time. Since April 4 as many as 33 had been seen above Hog Island and out over the James on virtually a daily basis from the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory hawk watch at College Creek. Those who recorded the pelicans over the facility from the hawk watch on April 28 crossed their primaries that the birds would stay put through the stormy night until the count team arrived the next day, and fortunately they did.

The new Black Vulture high count deserves a bit of commentary. Our spring bird counts from 1978-2004 averaged right at 9 per count. Some years we struggled to find any. Since 2004 the average has jumped to 45 per count!!! A 500% increase! Here's yet another vivid example of the value of what our bird counts are all about; regularly, as systematically as possible, monitoring our bird populations. More importantly such a finding prompts us to question why. Is this really a “change”? How does this compare with other localities? Is a “change” occurring across the species' range? Ah, the very essence of ornithology!

Okay, then. What's the big deal about high counts for species we all know are “around”? Were there really 27% more Carolina Chickadees than in spring 2011 and 15% more Brown Thrashers in the count circle than last year? How about Red-shouldered

Hawks? Only 4 more than in 1988, twenty-four years ago? Well, maybe. But it seems likely that our increased “back yard” and field team coverage this year contributed, at least in part, to the difference. Viewed in the larger context of making field observations, tracking the readily recognizable Carolina Chickadees and Brown Thrashers around our homes leads to encounters with other species they associate with. Add these to the day’s list and we’re compounding our interest. so to speak. Can and should we sustain such efforts for future counts? Of course!

Species we don’t record every year on the Spring Bird Count, our so-called write-in species, always create excited chattering among participants, especially those who find the goody-bird or sadly for those who lament not being in the right place (they were in that some-place-else black hole) at the right time. This count’s write-ins included a late Ring-necked Duck for the Jolly Pond ladies, a male Hooded Merganser and a Merlin at Hog Island, three Sanderlings and a Sedge Wren at New Quarter Park, a cooperatively singing Warbling Vireo for the Skimino skimmers, and a Bay-breasted Warbler at Cheatham Annex.

The sobering side of most counts is the species we thought we would “get” but didn’t for myriad reasons. Such was the case this year, with at least 3 particularly obvious. Small numbers of Boat-tailed Grackles have bred at Felgates Creek and/or Indian Field Creek off the Yorktown end of the Colonial Parkway since the late 1960s. This year there were none at either site before, during or after April 29. Habitat loss from hurricanes and northeasters over the last decade has been excessive at both locations, greatly limiting the amount and quality of potential nesting sites necessary for this species to frequent them. It is very likely Boat-tailed Grackles will no longer make our count day species list. Let’s hope otherwise. We also missed “rain crows” (Yellow-billed Cuckoos) and Bobolinks, for the very simple reason it was just too early for them. In fact, there were no Bobolinks reported anywhere in the Colonial Historic Triangle this spring.

When we consider that large swaths of the Spring Bird Count circle (Camp Peary and most, if not all, of Ford’s Colony, for instance) were not canvassed by count-day birders and that several of our eyes-in-the-skies folks were away for the weekend, we did a great job on April 29. A resounding thanks to all to made the day terrifically successful, and a loud Barred Owl “who cooks for you” compliment for the staff at Carrot Tree for the superb day-ending repast!

### **Put Sunday, December 16, 2012 on your calendar for the Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count.**

A full count-day species list will be posted on the bird club’s web site.

#### Count Participants:

Marilyn and John Adair, Joanne Andrews, Jeanne and Tom Armour, Dave Anderton, Jack Baer, Hugh Beard, Ruth Beck, Fred Blystone, George Boyles, Sue and Felix Brandon, Martha Briggs, Ann and Gary Carpenter, Ann Marie Castellani, Linda Cole, Val Copping, Sylvia Corbin, Jim Corliss, Dan Cristol, Greg Davis, Shirley Devan, Gary Driscole, Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders, Adrienne Frank, Gary Friedhaber, Ron Giese, Geoff Giles, Ruth Gordon, Gus Hall, Helen Hamilton, Rosemarie and George Harris, Sara Lewis, Cynthia and Bob Long, Joyce Lowry, Jerry Melin, Alex Minarik, David Monahan, Duryea Morton, Rock Moeslein, Carol O’Neil, Sandy Peterson, Susan and Mike Powell, Brian Taber, Jennifer Trevino, Margaret Ware, Arlene and Bill Williams, Dave Youker

### **WBC May Walks and Field Trip**

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

#### **Field Trip on May 6 to James River Park**

Cathy Millar, Geoff Giles, Shirley Devan and Ann & Gary Carpenter joined leader Lewis Barnett of the Richmond Audubon Society for the field trip to the James River Park, starting at the 42nd Street entrance. Warblers were the goal of the group and they were treated to (among other species) Hooded Warbler, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler and Northern Waterthrush. (*No group photo was taken*).



Left to right: Tom McCary, Betty Peterson, Jeanette Navia, Jan Lockwood, Susan Nordholm, Sara Lewis, Jim Corliss, Nelson Ensley, Cynthia Long and Geoff Giles. Missing are Joyce Lowry and Bob Long. Photo by Shirley Devan

### Bird Walk on May 12 at NQP

Thirteen birders enjoyed a spectacular spring morning at New Quarter Park. Jim Corliss led the group around the usual trek—down to Queen’s Creek and then a wooded trail to the point at the fire pit.

The group observed 45 species, and Jim helped identify quite a few birds singing up in the canopy. The group got good looks at a perching male Ruby-throated Hummingbird in a spotting scope as well as six Cedar Waxwings. Some other species were not so cooperative. Three Spotted Sandpipers were feeding on the wide mud flats on Queen’s Creek.

### Bird Walk on May 26 at NQP



Seated, left to right: Mike Millin, Sharon Falconer, Joyce Lowry, Bob Long, Joanne Andrews, Jeanne Millin, Cathy Bond, Cynthia Long. Standing, left to right: Tom McCary, Betty Peterson, Jim Corliss, Jennifer Trevino, Ashwimi Wakchauve, Geoff Giles, Marilyn Adair, David Taylor, Ruth Gordon, Jeanette Navia, Virginia Boyles, John Adair, George Boyles, Bill Williams, Lindsay Lowry and Ian Lowry. Missing from photo; Mike Lowry and Margaret Ware. Photo by Shirley Devan

Twenty-six birders joined leader Bill Williams for the walk at New Quarter Park. A total of 52 species were tallied by the group, including 9 Great Blue Herons, 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2 Yellow-throated Vireos, 1 Kentucky Warbler, 1 Nelson’s Sparrow, 3 Summer Tanagers and 2 Scarlet Tanagers.

**Photos from Members**



These Eastern Bluebirds were 19 days old when Shirley Devan took this photo on May 5th.



George Boyles photographed this Laughing Gull.



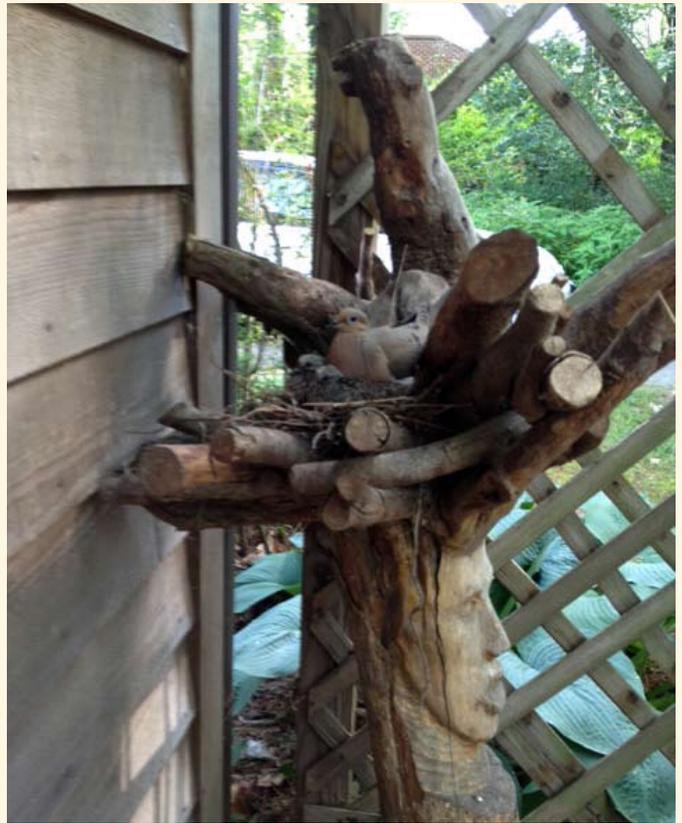
This Turkey Vulture was photographed at Felgate's Creek on May 5th by Fred Blystone.



While helping Jennifer Trevino with the bluebird trail in Ford's Colony on May 28th, Shirley Devan took this photo.



George Boyles photographed this Willet and Ruddy Turnstone at Grandview on May 23rd.



Kathi Mestayer sent in this photo of a Mourning Dove family that is nesting on her porch.



This photo of Prothonotary Warblers was taken on May 30th by Inge Curtis.



These two photos of a Crow digging for turtle eggs were taken by Fred Blystone May 17th on Jamestown Island.



This photo of a Tree Swallow was taken on May 12th by Inge Curtis.



Bill Williams took this photo of a 9-egg Wild Turkey nest on May 22nd in King William County.

## Bird ID from Recycle Bin Photos

By Joe Piotrowski

This feature is only on the website and in the electronic version of *The Flyer*. The answer to this month's "puzzle" will be given in the next electronic newsletter, as well as on the website.



Photo for June/July



May's photo was of a Willet.

## CALENDAR

Saturday, June 9	WBC Field Trip to Piney Grove. See front page.
Saturday, June 9	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM, Jim Corliss, Leader
June 15–17	VSO Summer Field Trip to Front Royal; <a href="http://www.vabirds.net">www.vabirds.net</a> for info
Saturday, June 16	Kayaking and Birding on Queen's Creek, See front page.
Sunday, June 16	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, June 23	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader
Saturday, June 23	Henricus/Dutch Gap with Richmond Audubon Society. Meet Betsy Saunders at 8:00 AM at the entrance to Henricus Historical Park/Dutch Gap Conservation area. For more information, contact <a href="mailto:betsyben@juno.com">betsyben@juno.com</a> .
Sunday, July 1	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, July 14	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM
Sunday, July 15	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, July 28	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader