



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 36, No. 7

www.williamsburgbirdclub.org

August 2012



President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

With the extreme heat this summer (and it's only the end of July!), I am eagerly awaiting September and October and cooler temperatures.

Fall months are always busy and the weekends are filled with multiple choices! So before your fall calendar fills up, take note and **save** these important dates:

September 14-16, 2012: Annual VSO Field Trip to Chincoteague, VA led by Jerry Via and Bill Akers. This VSO trip is open to the public and is a yearly highlight. If you have not attended one of these Chincoteague birding weekends, perhaps consider signing up this year.

www.virginiabirds.net/f_trips.html#chinco

Saturday, September 15: Bird Club Field Trip to Craney Island in Portsmouth, led by Ruth Beck. Shorebird migration has started and Craney is stuffed with birds and will be for several months. Plan to join us for this trip to a spot not usually open to the public. [Note: last year on Sept 15 there were 10 American Golden Plovers, 61 American Avocets and 15 Red-necked Phalaropes plus the "usual" suspects!]

Wednesday, September 19: Bird Club's 35th Birthday!! Woohoo! Our celebration will be a bit tamer than in 2007, but we'll still recognize this milestone with a special program at our meeting on the third Wednesday. Look for more information in the September newsletter!

Wednesday, October 3: Special event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Songbird Banding Station at Kiptopeke State Park on the Eastern Shore. This station, only an hour from Williamsburg, is the second oldest songbird banding station in the US. Plan to be at the Banding Station at 11 AM for a ceremony sponsored by the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory.

October 5-7: Eastern Shore Birding Festival based in Cape Charles, always a "birdy" weekend enjoying the wonders of fall migration at one of America's migration hot spots. Keynote speaker will be David Allen Sibley. You know that great field guide you've got in your car **and** on your kitchen

table—yeah—that David Allen Sibley. Friday night in Cape Charles, but you have to register in advance at <http://www.esvafestivals.com>.

Saturday, October 20: Bird Club's Field Trip to Kiptopeke State Park to visit the Hawk Watch and the Songbird Banding Station. Hawk and songbird migration will be in full flight and you'll be able to get close-up and personal with raptors like Cooper's Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks and songbirds like Yellow-rumped Warblers and Red-eyed Vireos.

Many thanks to Geoff Giles for organizing and planning our Club's field trips! Join us and make plans to enjoy one of the natural world's greatest wonders—fall migration.

See you there!!

Welcome New Members

Todd Averett (John Slowik's name was misspelled in the June/July issue of *The Flyer*.)

No Meeting or Field Trip in August

June and July 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!

June 6. From **Lois Leeth** in Florida "On the beach for a short time: 6 Willets, 4 Sanderlings, 3 Ruddy Turnstones, 1 Laughing Gull. At the favorite watering ponds: 6 Roseate Spoonbills, 3 Great Egrets, 10 Cattle Egrets, 2 Wood Storks, 2 Mallards. Flying overhead: 3 White Ibis, 2 Mourning Doves and 2 Snowy Egrets."

June 6. The Craney Island Disposal Area survey group, consisting of **Ruth Beck, Bill Williams, Shirley Devan, Dave Youker** and **Brian Taber**, came up with 71 bird species (plus one or possibly two coyotes) including 1 Glossy Ibis, 8 Black-necked Stilts, 4 Red Knots, 204 Least Terns and 10 Gull-billed Terns.

June 12. During the weekly survey at the Craney Island Disposal Area, **Alex Minarik, Ruth Beck, Brian Taber** and **Bill Williams** found 55 species of birds, including 3 Black Skimmers, 1 Common Nighthawk and 6 Boat-tailed Grackles.

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>mafjff07@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.

June 19. While surveying Grandview Nature Preserve, **Ruth Beck, Cheryl Jacobson, Brian Taber** and **Bill Williams** found 56 species of birds including 6 Wilson's Storm Petrels, 2 Black-bellied Plovers, 19 Willets, 11 American Oystercatchers and 8 Seaside Sparrows.

June 21. The Craney Island Disposal Area survey group, consisting of **Ruth Beck, Bill Williams, Virginia & George Boyles, Cheryl Jacobson, Alex Minarik** and **Brian Taber**, came up with 52 bird species including 1 Northern Harrier, 22 Black-necked Stilts and 5 Horned Larks.

June 25. While conducting the Annual Quail Call and Rabbit Survey for VADGIF in upper James City County and New Kent Count, **Shirley Devan** encountered a Wild Turkey on Jolly Pond road near the elementary school and middle school. Shirley then birded on the hike/bike trail at Warhill Sports Complex and came up with 24 species, including 3 Wood Ducks, 1 American Kestrel and 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers.

July 1. Jane Frigo writes: "The past several days brought intense storms to the area and July 1, 2012 was no exception. At 6AM the sky was black, torrential rains were falling and the lightning intense! Didn't look promising for a walk in the park. However, by 7AM the skies were clearing and eleven people braved the weather for the walk. Bill Ferris, Eileen O'Toole, Richard Hudgins, John Steinbach, Rock Moeslein, Marc Nichols, Jane Frigo, **Marilyn & John Adair** and **George & Virginia Boyles** were able to identify 52 species for the morning. Damage from the storms was evident with the biggest loss being a huge tree overturned at the Spawning Pond. This was the tree that the Eastern Kingbird frequently nested in and was often seen perching from the upper branches. Temperatures were warm beginning in the low 70s and rising to the middle 90s. A couple brief showers helped cool off the birders and birds. A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers along with a juvenile was seen. A Green Heron was spotted but not the huge numbers seen on the last walk. A pair of Great Horned Owls were squawking at the Arboretum. Purple Martins were flocking on the power lines. Several Osprey were seen, but again, no Bald Eagle."

July 19. The Craney Island Disposal Area survey team consisting of Bob Ake, **Ruth Beck**, Dave Youker, **Virginia & George Boyles** and **Bill Williams** found 62 species of birds including 65 Mallards, 1 Northern Bobwhite, 1 juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-heron, 7 Red-tailed Hawks and 3 Short-billed Dowitchers. **Lois Leeth** e-mails from Florida that she saw 20 Roseate Spoonbills, 6 Great Egrets, 4 Cattle Egrets, 5 White Ibis, 6 Snowy Egrets, 1 Swallow-tailed Kite and 2 Northern Mockingbirds.

July 26. During a hot but breezy day at Craney Island Disposal Area, **Ruth Beck, Shirley Devan, Bill Williams** and **George & Virginia Boyles** found 61 species of birds including 14 American Avocets, 33 Spotted Sandpipers, 186 Lesser Yellowlegs and 4,864 Semipalmated Sandpipers.

July 27. From Florida, **Lois Leeth** e-mails that while at the beach she saw 6 Sandwich Terns, 6 Sanderlings, 2 Gull-billed Terns and 2 Laughing Gulls. While at the roosting ponds she saw 12 Roseate Spoonbills, 4 Great Egrets, 6 Snowy Egrets and 1 Osprey that was flying overhead.

VSO Annual Meeting, Johnson City, TN

May 18–20, 2012

By Shirley Devan

Editor's Note: This is the concluding part of Shirley's description of the 2012 VSO Annual Meeting.



Dr. Alsop points out a bird—apparently in vain!

Over 200 people attended the banquet Saturday evening where the VSO awarded the 2012 Mitchell A. Byrd Award for Scientific Achievement to Dr. Bryan Watts, Director of the Center for Conservation Biology at W&M/VCU. The citation read:

“The Virginia Society of Ornithology awards the 2012 Mitchell A Byrd Award for Scientific Achievement to Dr. Bryan Watts. Dr. Watts was a natural choice for this award because, more than anyone, he has directly carried forward Dr. Byrd's scientific legacy. He holds joint research faculty appointments at Virginia Commonwealth University and the College of William and Mary, where his title is Mitchell A. Byrd Professor of Conservation Biology. He has also served as the Director of William and Mary's Center for Conservation Biology since 1992. He has published more than 230 scientific papers and has received hundreds of individual research grants totaling more than \$10.5 million. Additionally, he has presented or co-authored nearly 100 presentations at scientific conferences. He continues to study and monitor the Chesapeake Bay population of the Bald Eagle and has contributed vastly to the scientific knowledge of other coastal birds of Virginia. His scientific knowledge and leadership have been key to the continued recovery of Virginia's Red-cockaded Woodpecker population, and his contributions to our understanding of the Eastern Shore's importance for migratory birds has heavily influenced the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Plan. His scientific accomplishments are truly remarkable.”

The VSO awarded a \$1,000 J. J. Murray Research Scholarship to Courtney Turrin, a W&M graduate student working with Dr. Watts, who is studying Bald Eagle populations. Courtney also received one of the Bird Club's research grants this year.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Fred Alsop, who is an accomplished, published photographer in addition to a university professor, researcher and author. He is an outstanding teacher, as we learned on the field trip earlier that day. He enthralled us with his incredibly hard-to-get photos of adults and their young in the nests. Jeanette and I shared a table with John and Marilyn Adair, Bob Ake and his wife Janis, and Dick Peak and his wife Martha. Dick sends greetings to all his friends in Williamsburg—including Dr. Mitchell Byrd, Ruth Beck and Bill Williams.

Sunday morning, May 20, Jeanette and I joined another field trip to Roan Mountain, following Route 143 up the mountain through Roan Mountain State Park to Cherokee National Forest at the top. Our leader was Roy Knispel, Bristol Bird Club member and extraordinary birder. The target birds were Black-billed Cuckoo and Canada Warbler. Our caravan of six cars took advantage of numerous pullouts as we

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Shirley Devan and Jeanette Navia on Hampton Creek Cove field trip with blackberry bushes in background.

made our way up the twists and turns. Our first stop was a picnic area in the state park where the leader pointed out a nest of a Northern Parula. Through the scope we could see a bird in the nest, which was about the size and shape of a baseball, made of grass and spider webs with a tiny hole near the top.

At each stop we listened and searched for the Canada Warbler and the cuckoo. We enjoyed Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Least Flycatchers, chipmunks, and Chestnut-sided Warblers. But no luck with our target birds—until we reached the top at over 5500 feet elevation. The Appalachian Trail passes directly through the area where the Canada Warbler had been seen the previous day. The warbler was singing lustily back in the spruce and its undergrowth. He teased a few of us, popping into view for split seconds for a few lucky observers. Hardly anyone enjoyed a long look. Finally noon arrived and people started thinking about driving down the mountain for lunch and home. Jeanette had seen the Canada Warbler for a brief moment, but I had not. After everyone else departed, we backtracked to the area and followed a trail down to the middle of the spruce trees where the bird had been seen and heard. Sure enough, the Canada Warbler was perched on the end of a dead branch in the sun just above eye level. He was still singing, throwing his head back and showing off the black necklace on his yellow throat and breast. Quite satisfying for both of us and smiles all around.

We left Johnson City about 2 PM after lunch at the deli we had discovered Saturday with Andrew Dolby and Joe Coleman. Then the long drive home. We're looking forward to next year's conference in Leesburg—only 3 hours away! See you there.

Williamsburg Bird Club Book Review

By Jeanette Navia



The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds, by Julie Zickefoose. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012. ISBN 9780811844284. \$16.99 355 p. Williamsburg Library call number 598.072 ZIC.

In the President's Corner of the June Flyer, Shirley wrote that Julie Zick-

foose—"writer, naturalist, NPR commentator, watercolor

painter, gardener, wife and mother"—would be the keynote speaker at the annual conference of the Virginia Society of Ornithology in Leesburg, Va., April 26-28th, 2013.

In addition to all of the above, Julie Zickefoose is a sometimes volunteer bird rehabilitator, working out of her home. In her latest book, she writes about some of the birds she has taken in over the years, as well as other birds she has studied, drawn and painted.

Wildlife rehabilitation is delicate and demanding work. For instance, as the sole provider of food for two baby phoebes she once took in, she had to hand-feed them every hour. Tied to the clock like that, there was little time for anything outside the home, including grocery shopping. The phoebes were in her care for over a month before they were old enough to be released. As they were about to fledge, Julie put up a soft mesh tent in her yard. At night, she knew the snakes and raccoons could get them, so she had to bring them in for the night, using a pet carrier. The adjustments Zickefoose makes to her schedule and her home for the little creatures she cares for are amazing.

The book, illustrated with her beautiful drawings and paintings, is broken into four sections: spring, summer, fall and winter, each of which contains chapters about a different species. Most are, as the subtitle states, common species: tree swallows in her yard she has come to admire after first disliking them for their practice of taking over bluebird nests; a European starling she released that had been hand-raised by a friend and who continued to visit her after its release; chickadees she watched and drew every day for several weeks after they hatched; two baby hummingbirds to whom she fed smushed mealworms every twenty minutes; a nest of ospreys she watched for two years to illustrate a friend's manuscript, a white-throated sparrow that was brought to her because its head was inverted; and representatives of sixteen other common wild bird species including orchard oriole, red-tailed hawk, cardinal, turkey vulture, Carolina chickadee, and chimney swift. She discusses the practice of hunting Sandhill Cranes for sport, and questions the wisdom of our artificially aiding backyard birds by feeding them bucketfuls of seed.

She also includes a chapter on the Ivory-billed woodpecker. No, she didn't rehab one of these; she just fantasizes that some day she may see one, and writes about its probable extinction. Her chapter is subtitled "not saying goodbye." Her last chapter is about the pet Chestnut-fronted Macaw she bought when it and she were both very young. It grew from a sweet baby into a crotchety tyrant in the 19 years she had it. The chapter on the macaw was the

one that really opened my eyes. I can't imagine sharing my home with such a long-lived and demanding creature (though I know there are at least two couples in the bird club who own parrots and seem to do okay).

The book is chock-full of interesting facts about the birds she has watched and studied in her yard or in her home. It would appeal to anyone interested in birds or wildlife rehabilitation especially if they don't mind a touch of anthropomorphizing. I look forward to hearing her speak in the spring at the VSO annual meeting. If you haven't already done so, mark it on your calendar!

WBC June & July Walks and Field Trip

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



Joyce Lowry, Jim Corliss, Ann Carpenter, Gary Carpenter, Dean Gordon, Ruth Gordon, Shirley Devan and Diane Stricklin.

Bird walk on June 2 at Waller Miller Park

Shirley Devan lead a Waller Mill Park sponsored walk. She wrote "thanks to all who came out to Waller Mill Park this morning for a beautiful morning in the park. I really appreciated all the extra eyes and ears as we walked through the dense woods. Proves my hypothesis: The more birders you have, the more birds you'll find!"

We tallied 27 species by my notes. We heard lots of birds and enjoyed looks at a few of them. The bird of the day was the Prothonotary Warbler that we heard and then found early in the walk. Some folks got good looks at Ovenbirds, and a Wood Thrush landed in the trail for good looks. A few Acadian Flycatchers showed off as well."

Bird Walk on June 9 at NQP

Leader Jim Corliss was joined by 13 other birders for the walk at New Quarter Park.

Here's the group photo taken at the fire circle:

Seated: Shirley Devan, Chris Combs, Jennifer Trevino, Sharon Plocher, Deb Woodward, Virginia Boyles

Standing: Susan Nordholm, George Boyles, Jim Corliss, Marilyn Adair, Todd Averett, Bill Ferris, Joyce Lowry, John Adair



Field Trip to Piney Grove—June 9

By Geoff Giles Photos by Joe Piotrowski

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers—**Wow!!**

Our club was given a private tour on 9 June of the preserve of Virginia's state-endangered species, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. We were hosted and led by the man who is the resident expert on this bird, on the preserve at Piney Grove (near Wakefield) and on the method of preservation of that unique habitat by means of controlled burning of the understory—Mike Wilson of the Center for Conservation Biology. Our anticipation and excitement was heightened by the need to rise

and shine in time to make the 0430 AM ferry to Scotland Neck, to be sure to see the birds leaving their overnight roosts. Our day's results exceeded all expectations!!



Mike Wilson pointing out Red-cockaded Woodpecker nesting cavity.

As we ferried across the James and motored farther west across the Virginia countryside shrouded in morning mists, spirits were high and the sense of anticipation was tangible. In no time we were rallying with Mike, who happily exuded confidence that our efforts would be rewarded and that the birds would perform for us. Before we knew it, he had caravaned with us through woody trails, swung open locked gates and marched us through wooded paths to a wilderness clearing where he pointed out a tall loblolly pine, among many in view, which housed a nesting cavity about thirty or forty feet above ground.

We were able to focus on the small (two and a half inch opening!) cavity, when Mike directed us to look for it in a very visible patch of sap running down the tree trunk. This dripping wall of pine sap is created by the red-cockaded woodpeckers, by perforating the trunk, to protect their eggs and young from one of their most ravenous predators, the black rat-snake, a skilled climber. This particularly nesting cavity had been active days previous, with birds feeding their young and making frequent visits. As daylight gradually brightened our views of the cavity it eventually became apparent that the young in this nest had fledged and that it was no longer active. A few of us did get a glimpse of one of the birds, when Mike heard one and pointed him out foraging high in a nearby loblolly, but this was a frustratingly fleeting glimpse.

Mike was undaunted and led back to our vehicles to continue deeper into the preserve, through more locked gates and down another long woody trail to form a group a respectful distance from another tree with the telltale large patch of sap high up and flowing in a band around the trunk in which a small cavity opening was visible, once Mike pointed it out. After a few false alarms, when red-headed woodpeckers were spotted whizzing through nearby openings among the tall pines, Mike alerted us that our target bird was at the cavity feeding young!! By that time we had binoculars and spotting scopes trained on the cavity and got our first great view of one of our woodpeckers, as it happened the dominant male, identified positively by Mike due to the colors of his banded leg.

As we watched, to our delight, a steady parade of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, including the male, the mother bird and a couple of young male “helpers” came in a steady stream with insects (mostly goodly-sized grubs) which they stuffed into gullets of unseen nestlings in the cavity. They occasionally performed housecleaning, by going into the nesting cavity and then carrying away white fecal sacs. While most of us stayed at a respectful distance and enjoyed the action and spectacular views of the birds through binoculars and spotting scopes, Joe Piotrowski and Inge Curtis crept in close to the base of the tree to snap photos of the birds. Every one of our endangered birds in Piney Grove has been banded, these days most by Mike himself, and therein lies one of many tales.

To band the birds, Mike must shinny up the tall trunk of the loblolly pine, carrying needed climbing and banding gear, and band the nestlings between the ages of seven and ten days after hatching. If they are too small the bands will not be





the proper size to fit the birds as they grow, and if the nestlings are too old they are able to ward off Mike's contraption used to remove them from the nest for banding. Mike knows each of Virginia's 44 adult birds by the distinctive color combos of their bands, and is recording the colors of the bands of the 24 or 25 nestlings he will band this year. That is Virginia's entire population, and they all live in the 3,200 acre Piney Grove reserve. It is the only place that meets their needs for habitat they can survive in. They are members of ten family groups, which are believed to be the maximum that this expanse of suitable habitat can support. Another Virginia preserve of about 4,000 additional acres has been acquired and will be available in future, but it will take about twenty more years of controlled burning of understory, cutting of hardwoods and thinning of pine density to raise the pines to a size that they can support these habitat-specialist birds!!!

The Red-cockaded Woodpeckers are not the only ones to take a shine to their carefully preserved habitat. In fact, they have to defend their nesting and roosting cavities from competitors, including flickers and Pileated Woodpeckers who try to widen the cavity openings and take them over for their own use. The dominant male and

other members of a family group have to ward those off to successfully raise a brood. Then there are flying squirrels, which like to predate eggs and nestlings and take over the cavities for their own use. The most brutal competition for survival, however, is with nature itself. Each member of a family group must excavate or find, and defend, its own roosting cavity and find enough food to sustain itself through the winter. Starvation takes the heaviest toll.

The dominant male in a family group lures a female to nest in his roosting cavity in the spring. Of the two dominant males we saw, each had been dominant in a family group for more than seven years. When one of those is no longer able to ward off challengers and fulfill his role, he will be replaced by a more vigorous younger bird, who has likely helped to feed the young, clean the nest (carry away nestling fecal sacs) and helped to defend the nest for a few years before having the privilege of mating and leading a family. If a young bird challenges a dominant male unsuccessfully, he is driven away and will most likely perish alone without the support of a family group. Thanks to a concerted and dedicated effort over decades by conservationists like Mike Wilson, our Virginia population has grown from a low of just two known red-cockaded family groups in all of Virginia to the present robust population of ten families, which utilize Piney Grove to the max of its capacity!!

Thanks to Mike for a most informative and enjoyable day and for our woodpecker friends for their vigorous performances. A few of us were even able to observe the dominant male on one nest flash his red cockade—a fairly subtle event and relatively rare sight! Thanks also to our Williamsburg Bird Club early-rising fearless band for sharing a great day in very unspoiled nature. Our troop included Jan and John Lockwood, Cheryl Jacobson, Jean and Mike Millin, Cindy Baker, JoAnn Andrews, Dick Kiefer, Joe Piotrowski, Inge Curtis, and Geoff Giles.

Birding/Kayaking Trip on June 16 at NQP



Left to right: Shirley Devan, Jennifer Boag, Jeanette Navia, Deb Woodward and Sylvia Castle
Photo by Jill Bieri

(at least intentionally) and we moved the kayaks up and down the hill at NQP without mishap. A easy paced, memorable morning in the marsh at Cub Creek.”

From Shirley Devan: “A small but enthusiastic group of birders/paddlers enjoyed a spectacular late spring morning on Cub Creek near New Quarter Park Saturday June 16. Clear skies, light breeze, and high tide welcomed the seven paddlers: Jeanette Navia, Jennifer Boag, Deb Woodward, Sylvia Castle, Shirley Devan and leaders Lee Schuster and Jill Bieri of Chesapeake Experience.

We enjoyed multiple observations of Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons and Ospreys as we paddled up the creek. One encounter between a Red-tailed Hawk and a Great Blue Heron at the top of a pine tree had everyone oohing and aahing. We kept our eyes focused on the marsh grass—waiting for a Clapper Rail to step out, but he never appeared. Lee heard a Yellow-billed Cuckoo and a Summer Tanager.

A successful morning—no one got wet above the knees

Bird Walk on June 23 at NQP

Shirley Devan wrote “Thanks for braving the heat and humidity yesterday morning for our regular 4th Saturday Bird Walk at New Quarter Park! Our group tallied 44 species and our young birder, Chris, gained 5 life birds!! Whoop Hoo!! And he got that warbler he's been looking for!

Many thanks to our bird walk leader, Bill Williams, who kept score and entered our observations into eBird.

We all got good looks at the young Osprey in the nest near the floating dock. That young one will likely have taken off into the big wide world by the time we return for our July 14 walk.”



Seated: Chris Combs, Betty Peterson, Thad Hecht, Victoria Doelling, Cheryl Jacobson, Cathy Millar and Shirley Devan. Standing: Sharon Plocher, Bill Williams, Jennifer Trevino, Jeanette Navia, Yo Doelling, Geoff Giles, Jan Lockwood and Joe Piotrowski.
Photo by Niti Parker



Front row: Cheryl Jacobson, Jim Corliss, Geoff Giles, Jeanne Andrews, Jeanette Navia, Neson Ensley, Sharon Plocher and Shirley Devan. Back row: Jennifer Trevino, George Boyles, Virginia Boyles, Bill Williams, Alice Kipinitz, Seig Kopinitz, Marilyn Adair, George Harris, Betty Peterson, Thad Hecht, John Adair, Bringier McConnell, Felice Bond and Rosemarie Harris.

July 14th Bird Walk at NQP

Twenty-one birders joined leader Bill Williams for the walk at New Quarter Park. A total of 36 species were tallied by the group, including 2 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (1 adult and one recently fledged young), 9 Osprey, 2 Red-tailed Hawks and 1 Clapper Rail.

Bird Walk on July 28 at NQP

Jim Corliss led 17 birders on a sultry morning at New Quarter Park. Thirty-one species were identified during the morning, the highlight being 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos that most people got to look at through a scope.

Seated: Jim Corliss, John Adair, Shirley Devan, Geoff Giles, Rock Moesien, Barbara Hudgins, Richard Hudgins. Standing: Jesse Caron, Marilyn Adair, Cynthia Long, Joyce Lowry, George Boyles, Tracie Powell, Virginia Boyles. Not pictured are Jan Lockwood, Lois Ullman, Bob Long and Leah Duckworth.



Photos from Members



This Wild Turkey was photographed on the Colonial Parkway on June 1 by Fred Blystone.



This photo of Clapper Rails was taken by George Boyles at Messick Point on July 28th .



This Savannah Sparrow was photographed in Sky Meadows State Park by George Boyles on June 16th.



Inge Curtis had four Prothonary Warbler fledge on June 2nd.



Fred Blystone photographed this young Eastern Kingbird near College Creek on June 29th.



These Common Tern chicks were photographed by Bill Williams on the HRBT on June 19th.



These Black Skimmers were photographed by Bill Williams on the HRBT on June 19th.



Eastern Bluebird—photographed on July 4th at College Creek Park by Fred Blystone



Red-breasted Merganser photographed at Grandview Nature Preserve by Bill Williams on June 19th.



Shirley Devan took this photo of a Western Willet at Craney Island on July 12th.



This Common Tern chick has some protection from the sun. Photo taken at HRBT on June 19th by Bill Williams.



John Adair took this Barn Swallow picture at New Quarter Park on June 9th.

Bird ID 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 August



June/July's photo was of a female Eastern Towhee.

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 5	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, August 11	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM, Susan Powell, Leader
Saturday, August 18	Henricus/Dutch Gap with Richmond Audubon Society. Meet Betsy and Ben Saunders at 8:00 AM at the entrance to Henricus Historical Park/Dutch Gap Conservation area. For more information contact Betsy at betsyben@juno.com .
Sunday, August 19	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader.
Saturday, August 25	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader
Sept 14–16	VSO Fall Field Trip to Chincoteague. For more info visit www.viriniabirds.net/f_trips .
Saturday, September 15	WBC Field Trip to Craney Island. Information in September newsletter.
October 5–7	Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival. For more information www.esvafestivals.org .