



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 36, No. 8

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

September 2012



### President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

In 1997 the Bird Club published *Birds of the Williamsburg Virginia Area: An Annotated List* to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Club. The editor was Bill Sheehan.

Here we are 15 years later and preparing to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Bird Club. And guess what! The Club is preparing to publish *The Birds of Virginia's Colonial Historic Triangle* by Bill Williams.

Our Club's Record Keeper, Compiler, Founding Father, and great birder friend Bill Williams has written and edited the definitive book on the 340+ bird species observed in our area over the last 60+ years—species by species. We are proud that Bill has asked us to publish this important document. It will be the best among similar books being published by Bird Clubs across Virginia to document their local birds.

The publishing industry has come a long way in 15 years. If you have the 1997 book, you'll see a big difference. This 2012 book will be glossy and full color inside and out with color photos and map and spiral binding. Louise Menges is putting the final touches on the design and layout. Proof-readers have been busy! Bill expects that the books will be available in November. Target price is \$20.00.

This is a "must have" book for birders in the Williamsburg area. In fact, you'll need one for your car and your indoor birdwatching spot. They'll be ready for your holiday shopping and will make great stocking stuffers.

Bill wants proceeds from the book sale to go towards the Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships.

First of all—thank you, Bill Williams. This has been a labor of love for Bill and a goal since he became the Club's record keeper after Bill Sheehan died. We are proud to publish *The Birds of Virginia's Colonial Historic Triangle* and you'll be eager to have one—or two!

### Welcome New Members

Ann and Garland Gray

### September Meeting

Fall of 2012 is the 35th Anniversary of the founding of the Williamsburg Bird Club! Woohoo!! It is also the 50th Anniversary of the Songbird Banding Station at Kiptopeke State Park. Our September 19 Club program will highlight both milestones.

Brian Taber, President of the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO), will share a brief history of the Songbird Station and debut the first showing of the 50th Anniversary video of the people and the birds of the last 50 years! Don't worry—it's only 12 minutes. Brian is a Life Member of our Bird Club. As President of CVWO, he oversees the management of the Songbird Station and the Hawkwatch at Kiptopeke State Park each year. Members of our Bird Club have been involved with the Songbird Station almost from the beginning—before there was a Williamsburg Bird Club. This 50th anniversary means a lot to many of our members and we want to celebrate it.

Then we'll enjoy a fun retrospective of the 35 years of the Bird Club. Bird Club's Founding Father Bill Williams has updated the presentation he prepared for 2007 and you'll be amazed, proud, and delighted at what our Club has accomplished in 35 years! Our supreme Hospitality Chair, Barb Streb, has ordered a Birthday Cake! Plus bidding will begin on the two items in our "silent auction" (see more elsewhere in this newsletter).

**Date:** Wednesday, September 19, 7:30 PM, Millington Hall, Room 150.

**Parking Permit:** You will receive a parking permit in a separate email. Please place it on your dashboard when you park in front of Phi Beta Kappa Hall, the Art Museum, or Morton Hall.

Many thanks to Dr. Dan Cristol for arranging meeting space and parking permits for our Bird Club this year.

**50th Anniversary of the Kiptopeke Songbird Banding Station. More information at [www.cvwo.org](http://www.cvwo.org).**

## Officers

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<b>Member-at-Large</b>	221-8506
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## Committee Chairpersons

<b>Field Trips</b>	221-8506
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<b>Records &amp; Bird Counts</b>	229-1124
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Lee Schuster	<i>dljschuster@cox.net</i>
<b>Refreshments</b>	565-0250
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John Fennell	<i>maffjf07@netzero.net</i>
<b>Historian</b>	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.

## WBC Craney Island Field Trip on 23 September 2012!

By Geoff Giles

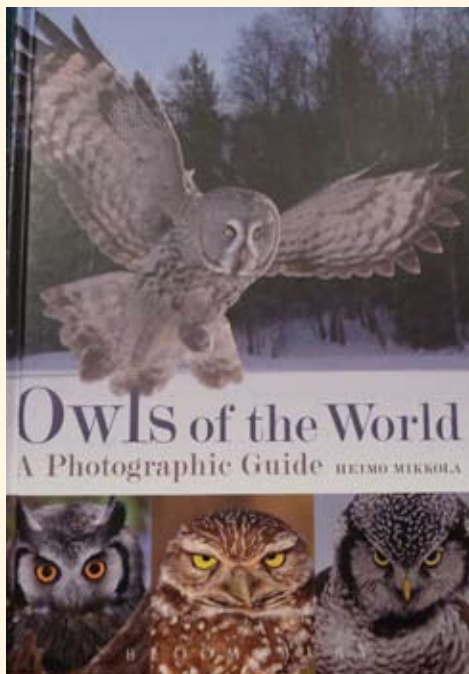
Fall migrants are on the way, and year for year the best opportunity to see everything moving through our area has been our Craney Island trip. It is a short hop to one of the most productive pieces of habitat our region has to offer. Not only do we have the good fortune to have a great day's birding in large and varied wetlands and upland habitat not open to the public, but also to be led by the foremost expert on what we can see at Craney Island, Ruth Beck!! And Ruth will be assisted by her son, Michael, who is an accomplished birder in his own right.

If this is your first trip to Craney, you will be dazzled by the array and quantity of birds not easily found in these parts in one spot, including ducks and shorebirds, like shovellers, teals, a variety of sandpipers and plovers, gulls, avocets, stilts, phalaropes and many, many more! Recent visits by Ruth have turned up Upland Sandpipers, a Hudsonian Godwit and other nice surprises. There often are raptors in evidence, and Horned Larks, meadowlarks are frequent treats. Your spotting scope and favorite binoculars will earn their keep for the year on this one exceptional day's birding.

Hope you will join us for a great day out. As entry is restricted, we ask that you join us to carpool from the Colony Square Shopping Center at 8:00 AM on Sunday, 23 September. This is just south of the intersection of Jamestown Road and Rte 199. We will depart promptly at 8 and Ruth will escort us into and around the compound. Recommend that you pack along some beverages, snacks and/or lunch—and dress as appropriate for the weather (wouldn't hurt to bring some insect repellent). No sign-up needed, just join us that morning. You can expect to add to your year's list of sightings on this trip! For questions, call Geoff Giles at 757-645-8716.

## Silent Auction for Williamsburg Bird Club

By Shirley Devan



During the past few months the Bird Club has received two stunning gifts. Member Seig Kopinitz has donated a copy of *Owls of the World: A Photographic Guide* by Finnish owl expert Heimo Mikkola. This hard cover, full color book (512 pages) is brand new—available August 30.

What makes this book special to Seig and to our Club is that the author included Seig's photo of the Galapagos Barn Owl in the species account—the only photo the author used for this species.

Per Amazon, "*Owls of the World* is the ultimate resource dedicated to the identification of these charismatic birds of prey. Dozens

of the world's finest photographers have contributed 750 spectacular photographs covering all of the world's 249 species of owls."



In the spring, the Bird Club received a donation of a signed print by wildlife artist Ray Harm. Jill Whitten in Williamsburg donated a beautiful 16x20 print (1966, unframed) of a Pileated Woodpecker to the club for fundraising for our scholarships. You can learn

more about Ray Harm at his web site: <http://www.rayharm.com/index.html>.

These two items will be available to view and bid on via "silent auction" at the September 19 Club meeting. Then, at the October 17 meeting bidding will continue via "silent auction," and these items will be awarded to the highest bidder at the end of the meeting. Many thanks to Seig Kopinitz and Jill Whitten for their generous donations.

### August 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!

**August 2.** The Craney Island Disposal Area survey group, consisting of **Bill Williams**, Dave Youker and **Brian Taber**, came up with 73 bird species including 6 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 1 banded juvenile Piping Plover, (See photo on page 9) 16 Black-necked Stilts, 40 Avocets and 7,223 Semipalmated Sandpipers.

**August 7.** From **Shirley Devan**: "I spent several hours at Hog Island today despite the weather forecast. I parked at the DGIF office at the end of the road and walked to the entrance and back with two short detours down paths into the center to look for additional woodland birds. Observed 42 species—highlight was hearing 2 Northern Bobwhite and seeing Yellow-throated Warblers and Brown-headed Nuthatches. Water in impoundments is deep so no

shorebirds to speak of. Even the wading birds—herons and egrets—were in trees or at edges of impoundments.

Ran into a birder from Seattle who had observed from eBird that Hog Island seemed to be a birdy spot. I was able to show him an immature Blue Grosbeak—a bird he does not see in the Northwest."

**August 9.** The Craney Island Disposal Area survey group, consisting of **Ruth Beck**, **Bill Williams**, **Inge Curtis**, Dave Youker, and **Brian Taber**, came up with 81 bird species including 2 Red-necked Phalaropes, 61 Stilt Sandpipers and 1 American Golden Plover (see photo on page 9).

**August 19.** Jane Frigo writes: "the day was overcast and cool. Temperatures began in the low 70s and never reached the 80s. Skies were overcast all morning and showers began by noon. 16 birders turned out for the morning. The group included a Phoenix, AZ, visitor, Janee, along with regulars Dave Youker, Bill Ferris, Tom Charlock, Cathy Bond, Eileen O'Toole, Judy Remsberg, Chuck Engles, Michelle Shinn, Jane Frigo, **Virginia and George Boyles**, Barbara and Richard Hudgins, and **Marilyn and John Adair**. The group was able to identify 52 species. Belted Kingfishers gave quite a show. Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen in the same area as previously observed. Several American Redstarts were seen high in the trees, giving many observers the dreaded "warbler neck." A Prothonotary Warbler, missed during the last walk, was seen. Misses for the morning included Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Great Horned Owl."

**August 20.** While birding on Jamestown Island, **Bill Williams** sees 3 Black Terns flying over the James River.

**August 21.** While butterflying at Freedom Park, **Shirley Devan** observed an American Redstart in the dirt/gravel path leading down to Colby Swamp.

**August 23.** During a very humid day at Craney Island Disposal Area, **Ruth Beck**, **Brian Taber**, **Bill Williams** and Wes Teets found 72 species of birds including 41 American Avocets, 1 Hudsonian Godwit (see photo on page 9), 276 Lesser Yellowlegs and 23 Short-billed Dowitchers.

**August 27.** Three Common Nighthawks were seen over his Settlers' Mill neighborhood by **Bill Williams**.

### Kiptopeke Challenge Supporters

There are two teams participating in the 2012 Kiptopeke Challenge that have ties to the Williamsburg Bird Club.

**Gulls Gone Wild** consists of Jennifer Trevino, Mike Powell, Shirley Devan, and Susan Powell.

**Wild Birds Unlimited** has Brian Taber, Paul Nasca, Calvin Brennan, and Chris Foster.



This fall marks the 50th Anniversary of the songbird banding station at Kiptopeke. Funds raised through the annual Kiptopeke Challenge support this ongoing migratory bird research program.

Please help sponsor one or both of these teams. Your donation can be per species or a flat-rate pledge.

Checks should be made payable to the CVWO and mailed to: Shirley Devan, 106 Winter East, Williamsburg, VA, 23188 for the Gulls Gone Wild team or Brian Taber, 103 Exeter Court, Williamsburg, VA, 23185 for the Wild Birds Unlimited team.

### **Bird Club Purchases Books for Library**

Here is a list of the latest items purchased by the Williamsburg Bird Club for the Williamsburg Regional Library.

*Attracting Songbirds to Your Backyard* by Sally Roth

*How to Be a Better Birder* by Derek Lovitch

*In the Field, Among the Feathered: A History of Birders & Their Guides* by Thomas R. Dunlap

*North American Birds: An Illustrated Guide to More Than 600 Species* from Reader's Digest

*The Urban Birder* by David Lindo

*What's That Bird?* by Joseph DiConstanzo

*Wings on the Water: The Great Gallery of Ducks, Geese, and Loons* by Steve Maslowski

*The Young Birder's Guide to Birds of North America* by Bill Thompson III

And the DVD *Better Birdwatching in the East*.

### **Williamsburg Bird Club Book Review**

**By Jeanette Navia**



*EarthFlight: Breathtaking Photographs from a Bird's-Eye View of the World*, by John Downer. Firefly Books, 2012. ISBN 9781770850392. \$49.95. 239 p. Williamsburg Library call number 598.022 DOW.

Earlier this year, a documentary series called “EarthFlight” was shown on BBC One. I don’t know if it aired in the United States. If it did, I missed it. After viewing the photographs and reading the text of John Downer’s book,

*EarthFlight: Breathtaking Photographs from a Bird's-Eye View of the World*, I would really love to see it!

John Downer and his team filmed birds up close as they flew. They traveled alongside the different species in microlights, paragliders, boats, trucks, cars, helicopters and gliders. They also used model helicopters and model gliders—in one case, a “Vulturecam,” a model glider designed to look like a vulture—with cameras attached to them. For a few of the larger birds, they mounted tiny, light-weight cameras to the backs of the birds.

Birds were filmed against iconic backgrounds in several different countries on every continent except Antarctica. They shot Brown Pelicans flying under the Golden Gate Bridge, Great Dusky Swifts flying over the Iguazu Falls in Argentina and Brazil, Scarlet Macaws over the Manu River in Peru, Common Cranes over beautiful tulip fields in the Netherlands, Budgerigars flying near Ayers Rock in Australia. In this book, there are 75 species shot in 22 countries.

Back in the 1980s, for his first wildlife movie, Downer realized that in order to get close to birds in flight, the best chance he had was to have a bird imprint on a dedicated cameraman. To do this, the cameraman had to be the first living thing the bird—in that case, a Green-winged Teal—saw when it hatched. Unfortunately, the duckling hatched before Downer could get the bird to the cameraman, and Downer was the one it imprinted on. The technique worked, though. The duck followed Downer everywhere, and he was able to get film of the duck flying close to him. Because imprinting worked well in his first movie, Downer used imprinting for some of the birds in *EarthFlight*.

As beautiful as the photos are, the text is just as interesting. At the end of the book, there is a section called “The Making of,” where Downer explains some of the challenges he and his team faced. Imagine trying to explain to security in Manhattan, still tight years after Sept. 11, why a particular Snow Goose (one that had a small camera on its back) had to be retrieved from Liberty Island, next to the Statue of Liberty. Or imagine worrying about using a model glider, which is in many ways like a military drone, in a Middle Eastern country. What happens when the Vulturecam crashes on its maiden flight, far away from where it was created? What impact did bird flu have on the filming?

It took nearly five years for the film series to be created. This book shows a tiny slice of what I imagine the films show. Although the shots are not all in crystal clear focus, they show birds from angles not seen before. The only complaint I have about it is the type is rather small, so someone who doesn’t see well may have a hard time reading the text. But the photos are amazing.

## My Bluebird Summer

By Geoff Giles    Photos by Inge Curtis

It actually began on a cold dank day last February. As I looked out at my back yard over the morning paper, I noticed a beautiful patch of iridescent blue at the top of one of the tallest bare limbs beyond my back fence. With the aid of my binocs, I quickly determined that a beautiful male bluebird (Yep, he was already duded up for spring!) was perched and looking down intently on the bluebird box I had mounted the previous summer in July in the middle of my fenced back yard.



I had even planted a couple of twenty foot serviceberry trees a prudent distance from the pole-mounted box, to make it a more inviting nesting location, with fruit from these native trees and hopefully nourishing insect larvae to feed baby birds. It had turned out to be too late in the summer for the bluebirds last year, so I hoped the male would stick around this year and bring a mate. Although bluebirds showed interest even late last summer, they were chased away by a feisty house wren, who stuffed the box with dry sticks several times. Since I knew that House Wrens stuff cavities not only to make nests, but also to deny other birds a nesting opportunity near their own nests, I cleared the wren's sticks out of my bluebird box several times, hoping that bluebirds would return. As I prepared to clear the house wren's sticks out a fourth time, I found that he had indeed brought a mate there and there was now a nest with eggs. In the end, four baby House Wrens hatched and fledged there, instead of the hoped-for bluebirds.

As for the serviceberry trees, that also did not go according to plan last year. Instead of providing delicious fruit for the birds (and me!) both trees had been picked clean of berries by pirate squirrels, even before the berries had fully ripened. I was left slightly discouraged, but hoping for better luck this year.

Indeed, as winter moved towards spring, my male bluebird friend appeared a few times a week from that time on, high in the bare branches of the tallest tree beyond my fence. Each time he spent a good deal of his time looking down at my bluebird box! He even came down to explore the trees in my yard around the box from time to time, and finally paid visits to my feeder, where he promptly took a shine to my peanut suet. But best of all, in mid-March he was accompanied on several visits to my yard by a lovely female bluebird. Yes!!! Tum-tum-te-dum—Here comes the bride!!

Both paid occasional visits to my bluebird box, usually standing on top for a time and occasionally even going inside—hopefully measuring for curtains and preparing to move in. The spring was mild and I was confident that nature would take its course. Once a Carolina Chickadee perched atop the box briefly, but nearly always when I saw a bird there it was one or the other of the bluebird pair. Yet each time I looked expectantly in the box, hoping to see a nest and eggs—nothing doing! And then—disaster struck. On one check of the box I found a comfy layer of green lichens, which could only have been a nest under construction by a chickadee! I could not intervene. Foiled again.

As for the serviceberries, which were heavily loaded with berries tending towards purple ripeness, after the beautiful white blossoms had subsided, that was **not** going so well either. Once again the voracious squirrels had assumed every acrobatic pose imaginable while picking the serviceberry tree farther from the box clean of every last berry, before the birds had a chance to taste them. Interestingly, the berries



were not touched on the serviceberry closer to the bluebird box, on which the male bluebird had occasionally perched to observe the box. I found out why.

I looked out one morning and was horrified to see a most dreaded event occur. A squirrel confidently clambered up into the remaining serviceberry, ensconced himself in a cluster of berries and began to greedily chow down!! My heart sank. I knew others would soon join him and my tree's fruit would be toast. But as I watched, trying to decide what, if anything I could try to do—VAH-WHOOOSH!! Out of nowhere, a blue streak traced a scorching trajectory across the length of my yard, and KAH-CHUNK!!, delivered a precise blow squarely on the squirrel's head, then kept smoking out the other side of my yard. I was at least as surprised as the squirrel, who appeared to be disoriented and disbelieving. If he needed convincing about what had happened, it didn't take long. SWISH-WHAMMO!! Another dizzying peck on the head for Mr. S! This time there was no doubt that it was the male bluebird defending that tree, and his second pass was right on target and got the job done. The squirrel ran for his life. The others apparently got the word, too. That tree and its berries were property of Mister Bluebird and his Mrs for the remainder of the summer!

Somehow that made me even more disappointed that the box had become home to a chickadee family, but by now I was learning that it's a jungle out there and that I had best let nature settle these things her own way. And it turned out Momma Nature would have the last word after all. About ten days after I had seen the chickadee nest underway, I peeked in the box



*Inge Curtis*

to see how the nesting was coming along. To my delight and amazement, instead of what I expected to see, there was a beautiful, perfect bluebird nest of pine shatters (needles) with three beautiful, robust-looking blue bluebird eggs. This turnabout and new construction had been conducted with total stealth, and I never would have known that the bluebirds had built over the chickadee nest, until Ma and Pa bluebird began the daunting task of stuffing the beaks of five (count 'em, five!) bluebird chicks. The story has a happy ending for everyone, as the chickadee family picked up their nesting in a cute little Amish barn ornamental birdhouse on my back deck.

After the bluebird family was safely launched, I cleaned the empty nest out and made the box ready for possible re-use. Sure enough, the bluebird nest was built over the layer of lichens started by the chickadees. Within about a week, Pa bluebird and at least three of the new brood were visiting the peanut suet with regularity and even visiting the serviceberry the male had defended. YIPPEE!! Ma bluebird was nowhere to be seen, but a few weeks later I found out why. When I checked the box, Presto!! Another

beautiful bluebird nest had magically appeared, this time with four beautiful blue eggs. To bring this happy tale to a close, the four eggs became four beautiful chicks, which fledged successfully and took off to pursue the business of learning to sustain themselves in a rich environment. In spite of the heat and drought in parts of our country, our area has had enough rain to keep greenery, and the insect life that lives from the native plants in our greenery, offering great sustenance for our birds. The bluebirds in my box were protected in their most vulnerable phases, as chicks and nestlings, by a predator guard (squirrel baffle) on the pole from Wild Birds Unlimited. I know from other bluebird trails that predation of boxes was much higher than normal this summer, so thanks to WBU for keeping my bluebirds safe from snakes and other predators. The same baffle has successfully baffled the squirrels who frequent my yard and never tire of devising new stratagems to try to get at my feeder. No luck for the squirrels. Good stuff.

I hope your summer was a productive and happy one too. The bluebirds certainly brightened mine, and I hope my little patch of nature and yours will provide another successful and happy nesting spot next year!!



## Northwest River Park—PROW data for 2012

Article and Photos by Shirley Devan



In 2012, biologists and volunteers monitored 98 Prothonotary Warbler boxes at Northwest River Park in Chesapeake, VA.

This citizen science project is supervised by Dr. Bob Reilly, Master Bander, Vice President of CVWO, and Professor, VCU Center for Environmental Studies. Steve Living, Wildlife Biologist with VA DGIF and I are licensed banders working as subpermittees under Dr. Reilly.

Sponsors and contributors to this project are: Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond Audubon Society, Williamsburg Bird Club, Bird Club founding mother Ruth Beck, and volunteers from the Williamsburg Bird Club and Historic Rivers Chapter of the VA Master Naturalists. The VSO Small Grant Conservation Fund awarded start up funds for this project in Spring 2011.

This is the fifth major site of study of Prothonotary Warblers in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain of Virginia. Dr. Reilly oversees three of these sites with over 400 nest boxes spread throughout Dutch Gap Conservation Area (Chesterfield County), White Bank Park (Colonial Heights), and Northwest River Park (Chesapeake).

Thirty-nine boxes were first installed at this site in 2009. In 2011 an additional 62 boxes were installed along the shoreline of this bald cypress-lined freshwater river that flows into the Albemarle Sound in NC.

In 2011, 54 of the boxes showed nesting activity by Prothonotary Warblers; in 2012, 67 showed nesting activity. Nesting activity includes everything from a “sprig of moss” to two clutches.

In 2012, 162 nestlings were banded; in 2011, 133 nestlings were banded.

Twelve female PROWs captured in 2012 were “returns” from previous year bandings (2009–2011). Notable recaptures in 2012:

- The very first Prothonotary Warbler (an adult female) banded at Northwest River Park in 2009 was captured in May 2012. She has made at least four successful round trips to her wintering grounds in Central or South America since she was first banded.
- A nestling banded in 2009 at box 36 was captured twice this year—with two clutches at box 37.
- Two other birds banded in 2009 were also captured in 2012.
- Four females originally banded in 2010 were captured in 2012—very close to the location of their original banding.

A remarkably late nesting pair produced three eggs that yielded 2 nestlings banded July 31, 2012—the last of 2012.

Volunteers from the Bird Club and the Historic Rivers Chapter of the VA Master Naturalist program were vitally important to the project both years. 2012 volunteers were Inge Curtis, Cheryl Jacobson, Jan Lockwood, Sharon Plocher, and Jennifer Trevino. I could not have banded **any** birds without their help.

Volunteer Jennifer Trevino says: “A dark green canoe filled to the brim with ‘tools of the trade,’ the camaraderie of three, anticipating their day’s adventure on the peaceful, pristine river, the awe of nature’s rich landscape, and the privilege and thrill of observing the sweetest bird of all, the Prothonotary Warbler. Yes, it’s Tuesday —my favorite day of the week.”



Volunteer Jan Lockwood describes the season this way: “This has to be the best project! The knowledge that one is contributing to the conservation of a truly exquisite warbler, perfect days on the river, breathtaking scenery... What’s not to like! The experiences of holding one’s breath while creeping up to the boxes in hopes of capturing the wary male or his supermom mate, of opening the boxes to monitor the chicks are unforgettable.”

We’ll be out there again next year!

### **WBC August Walks**

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

#### **Bird Walk on August 11th at NQP**



Seated, left to right: Thad Hecht, Jennifer Trevino, Susan Powell, Roc Melsein, Charlotte Davis and Shirley Devan. Standing: John Shoosmith, Jim Booth, Linda Cole, Sharon Plocher, Geoff Giles, Jeanette Navia and Mike Lowry. Missing from photo are: Roger Gosden, Janna Fitzgerald and Kathy Staley.

Leader Susan Powell was joined by 15 other birders for the walk at New Quarter Park. She wrote “A merry band of birders met for the usual second Saturday morning bird walk at New Quarter Park with the Williamsburg Bird Club. The weather was threatening rain, so the skies were overcast. The temperature stayed in the 80s, but the humidity was high. We started our walk by heading to the pier that overlooks Queens Creek. Along the way we could hear the “pizza!” song of the Acadian Flycatcher. As we got closer to the pier we could hear the fussing of a small band of American Crows. The crows were perched just below a young Osprey who was devouring a fish and not keen to share it with the crows—or anyone else. There were several Osprey in the area, some of which were young as evidenced by the white fringes along some of the dark feathers on their wings and body.

Flying over the creek and marsh were a few Barn Swallows who appeared to have no interest in the birders that were standing on the pier. We surmised that all young Barn Swallows have fledged, as the parents were no longer visiting the mud nests they had built under the pier. We also spotted a few herons, egrets, and Turkey Vultures—the usual suspects.

As we hiked back into the forest we heard the “pickituck” call (sometimes described as the “Pikachu” call) of the Summer Tanager. We got glimpses of both a red male and a yellow-green female.

The beauty berry bushes were in bloom and just starting to form berries. We also noted the inflorescences on the devil’s walking stick which attracted a beautiful Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly, the state insect. We also noted several crane-fly orchids in bloom.

As we gathered at the fire pit, we located a calling Indigo Bunting. He was mostly in silhouette, but we enjoyed seeing him just the same.”

#### **Bird Walk on August 25 at NQP was rained out.**



**Photos from Members**



Banded juvenile Piping Plover photographed by Bill Williams at Craney Island on August 2nd.



Inge Curtis photographed this American Golden Plover at Craney Island on August 9th.



This Hudsonian Godwit was photographed by Bill Williams at Craney Island on August 9th.



Black-necked Stilt, photographed at Craney Island on August 9th by Inge Curtis.



These two Red-tailed Hawk photos were taken by Inge Curtis in her yard on August 28th. The hawk had just enjoyed a rabbit lunch.



Inge Curis took this photo of a Great Egret at Craney Island on August 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 September

August's photo was of an Eastern Phoebe.



## CALENDAR

Saturday, September 8	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM, Tom McCary, Leader
Thursday, September 13	HRBC Monthly Meeting. See <a href="http://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org">www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org</a> for more info.
Sunday, September 16	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Wednesday, September 19	WBC Monthly Meeting. See Front Page
Saturday, September 22	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader
Saturday, September 22	Dutch Gap Conservation Area. Richmond Audubon Society. Meet at the entrance to Henricus Historical Park/Dutch Gap Conservation area at 8 AM. For more information, contact Betsy Saunders at <a href="mailto:betsyben@juno.com">betsyben@juno.com</a> .
Sunday, September 23	WBC Field Trip to Craney Island. See Page 2
Sunday, September 23	HRBC Field Trip to Greensprings Trail. Meet at trail parking lot at 8 AM.
October 5-7	Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival. For more information <a href="http://www.esvafestivals.org">www.esvafestivals.org</a> .