



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 36, No. 10

www.williamsburgbirdclub.org

November 2012



President's Corner By Shirley Devan

The Bird Club has published *The Birds of Virginia's Colonial Historic Triangle* and it is available to all birders for a donation of \$20 to the Bird Club.

Our founding father, Bill Williams, compiled the data from his own records and from the records of Bill Sheehan, the Bird Club's compiler for more than 20 years, into 1999. Bill included over 30 color photos taken by some of our area's premier nature photographers. In fact the cover, shown here, sports a stunning photo of our mascot bird, a Red-headed Woodpecker, taken by Club member Mike Powell at Greensprings Trail.

Bill has also included "An Historic Context" for the birds of our area including quotes and data from the 17th and 18th centuries. Where else but in Williamsburg? The first 17 pages are fascinating in the depth and breadth of life of birders and birding in our area. And for those new to our area, there are more than 5 pages of descriptions of "Birding Locations."

And in between are records for the occurrences of 346 species recorded in the Colonial Historic Triangle—breeder or not; early and late dates of most migratory species, and dates and locations of rare bird sightings!

You can obtain one of "Bill's Books" at just about any Bird Club event in the coming months. They are also available at Morrison's Flowers and Gifts at Colony Square Shopping Center on Jamestown Road, and at Wild Birds Unlimited at Monticello Marketplace.

The Bird Club is proud to publish "Bill's Book." Be sure to get your copy soon.

November Meeting

The Williamsburg Bird Club and the Historic Rivers Chapter of the VA Master Naturalists will hold a joint meeting on Wednesday, November 14th.



Seig and Alice Kopinitz will present a program on a trip they took last January to Antarctica with Lindblad-National Geographic Expeditions. The presentation will focus on ice, geology and critters. It will also include photos from their trip to Iguazu Falls, one of the largest falls in the world.

Seig is a retired electrical engineer and Alice was a school teacher. They are members of the Williamsburg Bird Club, the Historic

Rivers Chapter of the VA Master Naturalists and the John Clayton Chapter of The Virginia Native Plant Society.

Plan to join us on November 14th (this is one week earlier than our normal meetings) at 7:30 PM in **Room 150, Millington Hall** on the W&M campus. Mary Anne and John Fennell of the WBC and Clyde Marsteller of the Master Naturalists will be providing refreshments. **Don't forget to use your parking permit.**

Proposed Slate for 2013 Officers

The slate of officers for the Bird Club for 2013 is complete. This slate will be presented at the November 14 meeting for a vote.

President—Shirley Devan

Vice-President (Programs)—Joe Piotrowski

Vice-President (The Flyer)—Fred Blystone

Treasurer—Ann Carpenter

Secretary—Cathy Millar

Member-at-Large—Geoff Giles

Member-at-Large—Jeanette Navia

Officers

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Vice-President (Programs)	871-3418
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Vice-President (The Flyer)	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
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Member-at-Large	565-2597
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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>
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John Fennell	<i>maffjf07@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.

WBC November Field Trip to Shirley Plantation

By Geoff Giles



WBC will have the beautiful and varied habitat on the grounds of Shirley Plantation for the setting of our Field Trip on Saturday, 10 November 2012. We will be led around the property by our own Tom McCary, and will

have some of the tour guided by the proprietor of the lovely plantation, Mr. Randy Carter. Mr. Carter is proud of the way his property is managed to benefit ducks and other wildlife and assures us that we can expect some good duck viewing for our planned visit!

Last year we viewed meadowlarks, raptors, and numerous songbirds, including late migrant warblers. The plantation grounds, along the banks of the James River, have large duck impoundments, marshland, forest, meadows, and fields—so the possibilities of species we can encounter on a given day are stunning. Shirley Plantation's fields broke my personal jinx for finding Horned Larks and American Pipits, both of which were present in numbers in a large plowed field with meadowlarks. No telling what pleasant surprises are in store for us this year!

For those wishing to carpool from Williamsburg, we will meet at Colony Square Shopping Center and depart in a convoy at 7:30 on Saturday, 10 November. For those planning to go separately, we will meet at the Shirley Plantation Big House at 8:00 AM. There will be a modest fee of \$5.00 per person for access to the grounds for the entire day. We plan to wind down our bird walk in the early afternoon, but those wishing to stay longer may do so. We will go rain or shine and no signup is needed—just join us for a lovely day. Hope you will! For any questions or if additional info is needed, contact Geoff Giles at tylerandal2@aol.com or 757-645-8716.

October 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!

October 1. Lois Leeth e-mails from Florida: "a walk on the beach was enjoyable as 4 Sanderlings, 3 Ruddy Turnstones and 2 Royal Terns joined me."

October 6. Fred Blystone and Bill Williams venture over to the Eastern Shore where Bill was giving a talk at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Birding and Wildlife Festival. They decided to drive up to Chincoteague to look for

the Black-tailed Godwit that had been report there (the bird was seen by Brian Taber, among others, the day before. The trip was successful.

Photo by Fred Blystone



October 7. John Adair joined leader Jane Frigo and 11 other birders on the HRBC Newport News Park walk. Jane writes: "A major cold front moved through the area overnight bringing chilly, falling temperatures and dark, drizzling skies. In spite of the dismal weather, thirteen birders braved the elements hoping to see some fall migrants or new winter residents. They were not disappointed. The group was able to compile a total list of 51 species for the morning. Because of the annual Fall Festival the bird walk took place across the reservoir at the campgrounds. Beginning at the boat dock, a dozen Great Egrets were seen leaving their overnight roost and taking to the sky. Pied-billed Grebes and a Belted Kingfisher were also spotted there. Nick and Elisa heard the "sneaker squeak" of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and all the group got to see a young White-eyed Vireo. All possible woodpecker species were spotted including adult and immature Red-headed and a FOS Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. A Red-breasted Nuthatch put on quite a show singing and "dancing." A Solitary Sandpiper made a flyover appearance that was unexpected. By far the most abundant species were the Thrushes—"red-breasted" better known as American Robins, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's, Gray-cheeked and Wood. FOS Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen and late season Scarlet Tanager and Indigo Bunting were noted. What a great day!"

October 7. Carol O'Neil reports "in my backyard today: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Red-eyed Vireo, and an Immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Photo by Carol O'Neil



October 13: Linda Scherer reports seeing 7 Wild Turkeys in the field closest to the entrance to Greensprings Plantation on Centerville Road.

October 14. From Brian Taber: "Last night, a Northern Saw-whet Owl, originally banded on Nov 9, 2010 at Kiptopeke by the Center for Conservation Biology at W&M/VCU, was recaptured by Dr. Bob Reilly at his Timber Creek site in Powhatan County, as part of the Saw-whet program of Coastal VA Wildlife Observatory. This is a very early capture for this latitude, according to Bob, who says that this record and the level of Saw whet banding activity farther north point to a potentially strong year for Saw-whet migration in VA and that we'll know more in about 3 weeks when the season peak for this species is expected through our area."

October 17. Birding at Warhill Sports Complex, Shirley Devan finds 28 species of birds, with lots of Yellow-rumps and the highlight being a Golden-crowned Kinglet.

October 21. Geoff Giles, Rock Moeslein, Bettye Fields, Marilyn & John Adair, and Virginia & George Boyles join leader Jane Frigo and 18 other birders for the HRBC walk in Newport News Park. Jane Frigo writes: "What a beautiful fall day October 21st, 2012 was! The reservoir was like glass and reflected the first red and yellow foliage of the season. The temperature was a chilly 55 degrees so light jackets were appreciated. For the entire morning the group totaled 57 species. First of season (FOS) birds included Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet,

Hermit Thrush, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. Most migrating warblers were gone, but Phyllis Roth spotted a late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Red-headed Woodpeckers were abundant, both adult and juvenile providing excellent views. Also, a Hairy Woodpecker showed off a magnificent bill! Red and White-breasted Nuthatches were seen but for the second walk, no Brown-headed Nuthatches could be located.”

October 23. Alex Minarik reports having 4 Pine Siskins at her bird feeder. From Florida, Lois Leeth reports “10 White Ibis, 8 Common Moorhens, 20 Great Egrets, 6 cormorants, 30 Roseate Spoonbills, 6 Woodstorks, and 3 Snowy Egrets, all enjoying the secluded pond.”

October 25. From Linda Scherer: “Two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were in my yard this morning. It was very difficult to get any yard work accomplished, as it was a birdy morning, with lots of distractions.”

October 27. Shirley Devan is extremely happy to be able to report that finally a Red-breasted Nuthatch has shown up at her feeder.

October 28. From Lois Leeth in Florida: “12 coots, 17 friendly White Ibis, 8 cormorants, 6 Great Egrets, 8 Snowy Egrets and 2 male Mallards bathing.” Carol O’Neil has a female Purple Finch show up at her feeders.

October 29. Brian Taber reports seeing a Cave Swallow (along with an estimated 800 Tree Swallows) clinging to a Wax Myrtle near College Creek on the Colonial Parkway. From Linda Scherer: “About 30 Pine Siskins on and under my feeders most of the afternoon. Some of



By Carol O’Neil

them are almost swimming in the puddles, but feeding avidly on the spilled seed. There has been lots of activity all day, all through the wind and rain.”

October 30. Carol O’Neil’s Red-breasted Nuthatch and female Purple Finch were joined at her feeders by a flock of 17 Pine Siskins and 2 Field Sparrows.

The Virginia Society of Ornithology Wants YOU!!

By Shirley Devan, Membership Secretary, VSO



Yes, I’ve added another hat to my hat rack—Membership Secretary for the VSO. I’ve got a big hat to wear. Thelma Dalmas served in this VSO position for over 30 years. I intend to live to at least 100, but I don’t think I’ll be Membership Secretary for the VSO when I get there! There’s only one Thelma!

In late August I fell victim to President Andrew Dolby’s arm-twisting and shameless flattery and agreed to be appointed the Membership Secretary for the VSO. This is an elected position on the VSO Board.

Thelma brought me “the box” Saturday, September 1, just two weeks before she and her husband John moved to Texas to be near children and grandchildren. Who can blame them? The birding community in Texas has gained two valuable members.

“The VSO exists to encourage the systematic study of birds in Virginia, to stimulate interest in birds, and to assist the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources. All interested in these objectives are welcome as members. Membership includes every level of interest, from professional scientific ornithologists to enthusiastic amateurs and lifelong learners.” Aren’t we all in favor of these objectives? In fact, this statement is close to our own Williamsburg Bird Club’s mission. The VSO is Virginia’s Bird Club. We have over 700 members from Virginia and around the world who support these objectives. I will argue that every member of every bird club in Virginia should be a member of the VSO.

Do you support these efforts? If so, you should join the VSO.

- Scholarships to graduate students whose work will make a meaningful contribution to the understanding of birds in Virginia. In 2012, the VSO awarded a \$1000 J. J. Murray Research Award to W&M biology grad student Courtney Turrin, who is studying Bald Eagles on the Chesapeake Bay with Dr. Bryan Watts at W&M. The VSO also awarded a scholarship to a Ph.D. candidate who is studying Dark-eyed Juncos at Mountain Lake Biological Station. In the last 10 years, quite a few W&M biology graduate students have received this award.

- Forays to document breeding birds in specific areas around the state. The 2013 Foray will be in June in Rock-bridge County.

- The [Va-bird] List Serve. The VSO pays for this popular list serve where birders from all over Virginia share their bird sightings and questions. How many of you read these regularly? How many have planned birding trips around what others have posted to this list serve? How many have submitted an observation to the “va-bird mailing list”? Not surprisingly, there are more members who submit to the “va-bird mailing list” than there are VSO members. And many “va-bird mailing list” readers and posters are **not** members of the VSO. Why not?

- Field trips with experienced leaders to the birdiest spots in Virginia. The VSO sponsors at least four field trips each year. The field trip co-chairs, Meredith Bell and Clark White and their spouses, are four of the hardest working members of the VSO family. Have you enjoyed a weekend birding with the extraordinary leaders who volunteer to lead the VSO Field Trips? If so, you should be a VSO member. The next VSO field trip is in our backyard—Virginia Beach in December. Read details about it in this newsletter and then sign up.

- Conservation of Virginia Birds. The VSO Small Grants Conservation Fund awarded a grant to a graduate student studying Golden Eagle populations in eastern North America. In 2011, the Small Grant Conservation Fund awarded a grant to help with startup costs for the Prothonotary Warbler monitoring project I was working on in Chesapeake. The grant was a welcome addition to a bootstrap project.

These are just a few of the important activities the VSO supports. And I did not even mention the three publications produced every year: quarterly VSO Newsletter, twice yearly journal *The Raven*, and *Virginia Birds*, a quarterly record of the bird sightings across Virginia.

I'll be helping the VSO toot its horn a bit louder in the coming months. Meanwhile, click over to the VSO's web site: <http://www.virginiabirds.net> and look for “join” in

the right column to download the membership form. Your membership form and check will come to **me** at the PO Box in Williamsburg.

I have a few extra copies of the latest copy of *The Raven* and the VSO Newsletter. Give a shout and I'll send you one of each. Phone: 757-813-1322 or sedevan52@cox.net.

I hope to see your VSO membership in the mail soon. The VSO is grateful for your support and participation!

Thanks Kiptopeke Challenge Supporters!

By Brian Taber

As usual, we were on the Kiptopeke platform at 5 a.m. listening for birds flying over in the dark, but it was quiet... and windy...windy was the theme for the day. Chris Foster has been on our Wild Birds Unlimited of Williamsburg team, but he and wife Betsy formed their own team this year and we added our Kiptopeke Hawkwatcher, Steve Kolbe. We decided it best to bird the east side of the Shore to get out of the strong westerly wind and found Eastern Screech-Owl and Great Horned Owl at Eastern Shore of VA National Wildlife Refuge. At our usual dawn stop at the pond at the Refuge, always active with birdlife, there were dozens of White Ibis, a Merlin, several Clapper Rails and the usual egrets and herons, except for Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. The nearby Bunker Trail produced a Baltimore Oriole, a Black and White Warbler, and an American Redstart. At the Visitor Center, we added a Prairie Warbler and Chimney Swift, the only ones of those species all day! At the Kiptopeke feeders, several Red-breasted Nuthatches were active, as were 2 Brown-headed Nuthatches, quite a surprise!

The usually reliable Eurasian Collared Dove spot on Route 600 proved unreliable and we missed that species. At the Cape Charles Natural Area Preserve, we found a Veery and a juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker. The downtown Cape Charles waterfront produced Ruddy Turnstones, Sandwich Terns, Forster's Terns, and a Common Tern.

The morning was gone too quickly...we stopped at the Oyster Landfill pond, where we found Pied-billed Grebes and the Common Gallinule that had been seen there the day before by others...that was our rarest bird of the day... then we headed for Willis Wharf, where the tide was very high, meaning few birds...so...on to Chincoteague! As we drove into Chincoteague, we saw a Marbled Godwit along the causeway, bringing our species total to 91 by about 2 p.m. Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge produced Piping Plovers, which we almost never find and, Pectoral Sandpipers, Black-bellied Plovers, Black Skimmers, both yellowlegs, a Peregrine, Oystercatcher, Glossy Ibis,

Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal and Eastern Wood-Pewee...and finally...at dusk...our only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. We had seen several of the other teams numerous times all day long.

We again dedicated our day to friends who have passed away...in recognition of the 50th season of the Kiptopeke Songbird Station, we dedicated the day to the 6 founding volunteers: Doris and Walter Smith, Mike and Dorothy Mitchell, Fred Scott and Charlie Hacker...wonderful people and remarkable conservation pioneers.

After dark, we were quite tired from the battering wind and hot temperatures (up to 85), but got refreshed, halfway back home, at Sage Diner. We listened for nighttime migrants again after 9 p.m...16 hours after our start... this time at the Kiptopeke pier, but didn't add any more species. We didn't see a Green Heron or Brown Thrasher or Northern Harrier or House Finch, species we can usually find.

Our 111 species this year is a little below expectations, but considering the weather, decent. Another team found 121, so we came in second...however...our pledges are still coming in and should be at least \$3,000!

Thanks to all of our great supporters!!!
Paul, Calvin, Steve and Brian

Nature Camp Memories

Dear Williamsburg Bird Club members,

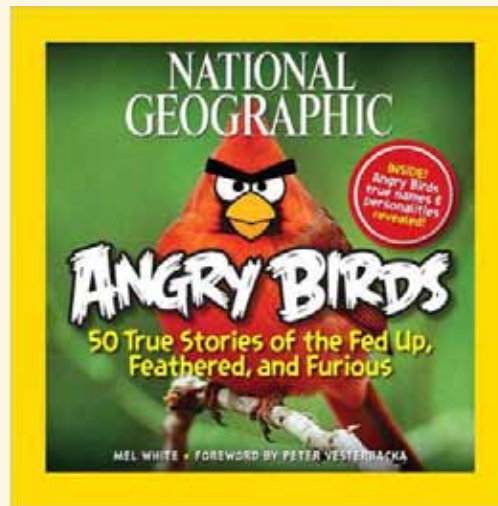
Nature Camp was an amazing experience that I think every child should enjoy. I am so grateful to the Williamsburg Bird Club, Bill Williams, and everybody who ever inspired me, or taught me anything. All I can say is thank you so much!!!! I bet lots of you are wondering what I actually did at Nature Camp. So let's get right to it!

Nature Camp was special because of the variety of things that you could do. Table Rock, for example, is a natural water slide where you experience a beautiful hike and a chill in the hot weather. The birds we saw were amazing. Even though I didn't get to see a Pileated Woodpecker, I got to hear one. Our ornithology class saw so many woodpeckers, gold finches, flickers, nuthatches, wrens, and chickadees that it soon became a chore to identify them. The real eye catcher was a pair of indigo buntings. Because of the time of year, I got to see a Grackle feeding a juvenile one.

Nature Camp was an amazing experience. I believe that everybody should do this because life is too short to miss out on a birder's dream. I love you guys!!!! Thank you for making this happen! I am inspired by the wonderful experience and I think that I will aspire to be a very dedicated ornithologist.

With every good wish, Audrey Root

November 2012



Williamsburg Bird Club Book Review

By Jeanette Navia

National Geographic Angry Birds: 50 True Stories of the Fed Up, Feathered, and Furious, by Mel White. National Geographic, 2012. ISBN 9781426209963. \$13.95. 159 p.

Williamsburg Library call number 598 WHI.

When you hear the phrase “angry birds,” what comes to mind? Gannets aggressively attacking any bird that dares to come close to their little nesting spaces on the rocky cliffs? Kingbirds audaciously attacking much larger hawks and crows? Hummingbirds hovering around a source of nectar, attacking other hummers that try to sneak in a sip? Or do you picture cartoon birds on an iPhone being flung catapult-style with the swipe of a user’s finger to smash against and hopefully demolish structures protecting little green piggies? If you have no idea what I’m talking about, ask just about anyone with a smart phone to show you. Angry Birds is a very popular game created by Rovio for mobile devices.

National Geographic and Rovio got together to produce this fun yet informative new book. There are fifty species of real birds from around the world represented here. These are some of the avian species known in part for their aggressive behavior. Photos depict them at their angriest. The photo of a Northern Mockingbird, wings back, beak wide open, shows just how angry a little bird can be! A page or two of information about each bird and its belligerent behavior accompanies each photo. I learned that Crested Bellbirds from Australia use living, writhing, hairy caterpillars around the rims of their nests to keep predators out, and that Masked Lapwings, also from Down Under, have sharp little spurs protruding from bends in their wings that might be used in fighting (though researchers aren't sure what they do with them). A “rap sheet” for each species shows the name (including scientific name), physical description, known whereabouts, “aliases” (other common names), and specific angry behavior. For the Wild Turkey, the behavior listed is “Chases people, kicks and scratches.” For the Greater Honeyguide of sub-Saharan Africa, its “Chicks stab and rip their nestmates to death.” The Northern Shrike “impales its prey for later feasting.”

Each of the cartoon Angry Birds gets its own spread too, with a “photo,” description and rap sheet. Who knew they each had a name and a history? The Angry Birds also make their appearances throughout the book, sometimes commenting on the behaviors of the real birds.

This is a fun book, with terrific photos of birds at their angriest. It’s a great way for anyone to learn about bird behaviors that aren’t usually included in guidebooks. I’d suggest it for young teens through adults, especially those who might be so into gaming on their iPhones that they are unaware how competitive nature can be. I haven’t played Angry Birds very much on my iPod Touch, and I really don’t care about the cartoon bird’s “personalities,” so I skipped over those few pages. It’s a quick and enjoyable book, if bird mayhem and feathered fighting doesn’t make you cringe.

WBC October Walks

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



Bird Walk on October 13th at NQP

Nine participants joined leader Jim Corliss for the walk at New Quarter Park. There were a total of 35 species seen during the morning, including 1 Ruddy Duck, 5 Red-headed Woodpeckers and 2 Red-eyed Vireo.

Left to right: Jim Corliss, Jan Lockwood, Joyce Lowry, Joanne Andrews, Lynda Sharrett, Deb Woodward and Betty Peterson. Not in the photo: Cynthia and Bob Long and Shirley Devan, who took the photo.

A DAY AT THE SHORE!—WBC October Field Trip

Article by Geoff Giles Photos by George Boyles

Our 20 October field trip to the Eastern Shore was a bit breezy, but otherwise enjoyed nearly perfect weather, sunny and low seventies. It was just one of those “good to be alive” days. And it was also good to be birding! Our ten birders logged 79 species and some memorable moments. We were joined by British birder Geoff Brunton on vacation in Williamsburg, who logged a goodly (16?) number of birds for his life list in the course of our Saturday on the Shore. Geoff has now returned to England and become the first overseas member of our WBC family, joining our club. Welcome aboard Geoff!!! He confirmed that many of our common birds are great rarities when they appear in England, and that he is used to some great birds at his home almost never glimpsed here. Geoff’s being with us added much to the good spirits and enthusiasm of our group!



Left to right: Tom McCary unknown, John Adair, Marilyn Adair, Geoff Brunton, Geoff Giles, Lynn Collins, Virginia Boyles, George Boyles, Linda Scherer, Shirley Devan. Photo by Brian Taber.

The day began with a rare sight. Red-breasted Nuthatches swarming in a grove of pine trees at Sunset Beach. At times there were five or seven of these feisty little birds busily gleaning unseen insects on a single limb. Just amazing to see an irruption flock, when we usually are fortunate to see just one of these birds. At the same spot we had a handful of meadowlarks very visible in a field—a lifer for Geoff! And, not to be outdone by the nuthatches, we had flocks of Yellow-rumped Warblers in numbers usually more common among mosquitos than warblers. There were so many you felt like swatting them away. There were some Pine Warblers and at least one Black-throated Blue in among the “butter butts”, for those with great patience in sorting warblers. And it was apparent by their numbers that Blue Jays and flickers were in migratory flocks at this location too.

The next major visit was to the Cheriton Landfill, more affectionately known as “the Dump”. This location did not disappoint, as we were treated to Little Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Herons and a Tri-colored Heron. We also saw a few Ruddy Ducks, Mallards, Pied-billed Grebes and many, many Canada Geese. There were Song Sparrows and swampies around the edge of the pond that attracted the above waders and ducks. An unexpected treat was a small flock of Palm Warblers which was foraging energetically in wildflower brush, but teed up nicely for us a number of times for good views. There were lots of Turkey and Black Vultures and gulls flocking for the free handouts the Dump provides them, and all things considered, the air was not the worse for the presence of the landfill activity. This was a new hotspot for many of us, and a good one!

We moved on to nearby Oyster, which was unusually quiet at mid-day. We did have one Whimbrel, who was happily foraging on the edge of the reeds when we came upon him at close range. He found this spot to his liking and did not flush, but gave us the closest and best views of his species we could wish for. Much farther out over the marsh, a lone Northern Harrier was spotted by the eagle-eyed Shirley Devan. Shirley was our trip leader for the day, and enriched our experience by pointing out species we could otherwise frequently have missed, and by scoping them for all of us to get better views. Thanks, Shirley!!



Black-crowned Night-Heron



Whimbrel

Then it was back to Kiptopeke for the Hawkwatch area and the trails. The action was once again dominated by swarms of Red-breasted Nuthatches, which mobbed the small trees and feeders near the picnic area by the Hawkwatch. This time there were other nuthatches competing with them for the feeders, Brown-headed Nuthatches. These tiny fellows are usually heard doing their squeaky toy-like vocalization somewhere way up there, and perceived only dimly at a distance. Here at the feeder they went about their business for us at eye level. There were also White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos foraging in leaf litter nearby, two winter visitors recently arrived.

Watching the nuthatches stuff themselves was just too much, so we did the same at the picnic tables near the feeders, splitting time between bites and binoculars. After fortifying ourselves with lunch, Brian Taber joined us for a walk back along a trail new to most of us which led to

a marsh and Taylor's pond. There were yellow-rumps and Golden-crowned Kinglets along the trail and when we reached the pond there were just a few Ruddy Ducks and Pied-billed Grebes in evidence. We would doubtless have had warblers there earlier in the day. A walk around the pond produced tantalizing views of sparrows, which finally afforded us good looks at Savannah Sparrows, Song Sparrows, and swampies. Geoff was the first to notice a bright pinkish bird among the sparrows. This proved to be the first of two male Purple Finches we got good looks at. Another good lifer for Geoff!!



Eurasian Collared-Dove

Finally it was on to Magotha Road, where it was Virginia Boyles who sought and got her lifer. This time it was the Eurasian Collared-Dove, a rarity for us, although a yard bird at home for our new British member. The bird was not in evidence on our first pass, so the Boyles and the Adairs stayed on after the rest of us departed the area. Virginia was driving and would not be denied. In the end, she got her bird, and hubby George immortalized the dove in digital detail. No finer photo of this bird can be found on a wanted poster anywhere. Just a reminder that persistence pays!

Last stops were brief ones at the Eastern Shore National Wildlife Reserve and finally at the first island of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. The reserve was rather quiet in late afternoon, although there were plenty of yellow-rumps, like everywhere else we went on the Shore. There were also a few woodpeckers, red-bellied and pileated, which were visible. CBBT was beautiful but fairly quiet, except for a flock of about forty Sanderlings, a Ruddy Turnstone, a Rock Pigeon or two and gulls, gulls, gulls—mostly great black-backed. And fittingly, as we prepared to leave the Shore and the Bay behind, a large pod of dolphins was playfully rounding up a school of fish and enjoying their evening meal as a backdrop to our last view of our beautiful day along the shores of the Bay.

Thanks to Shirley for taking us to some great new spots and making it a great birding day, and to our happy band of birders for the good cheer all along the way!!

Bird Walk on October 27 at NQP.

Nine other birders joined leader Bill Williams on a overcast and humid morning at New Quarter Park. An exceptionally high tide was the reason for 10 Clapper Rails being heard among the 37 species tallied for the day.

Seated (left to right): Shirley Devan, Linda Sharrett, Cheryl Jacobson, Jan Lockwood, Joyce Lowry. Standing: Geoff Giles, Helen Janele, Bruce Glendening, Bringier McConnell, and Bill Williams



Photos from Inge Curtis

These photos of Laughing Gulls and Forster's Terns were taken by Inge on October 1st.





At the Dump

These two groups of photos were taken by John Adair during the field trip to the Eastern Shore.



Magotha Rd

Kiptopeke

Oyster, VA

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 November



October's photo was of
Lesser Scaup.

CALENDAR

Thursday, November 8	HRBC Monthly Meeting. Teta Kaine will present a program titled "Plover Paradise" See www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org for more info
Saturday, November 10	WBC Field Trip to Shirley Plantation. See page 2 for information.
Sunday, November 11	WBC Bird Walk, NQP, 8AM, Rock Moeslein and Geoff Giles will be co-leaders.
Wednesday, November 14	WBC Monthly Meeting (being held jointly with the Historic Rivers Chapter of the VA Master Naturalists). See front page.
Sunday, November 18	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7AM, Jane Frigo, Leader.
Saturday, November 24	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7AM, Bill Williams, Leader
December 7-9	VSO Virginia Beach Field Trip. Go to www.virginiabirds.net for more information.
Saturday, December 15	HRBC Christmas Count. Contact Nancy Gruttman-Tyler at gruttmantyler@gmail.com for more information.
Sunday, December 16	WBC Christmas Bird Count. More information in the December newsletter.