



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 37, No. 1

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

January 2013



### President's Corner By Shirley Devan

Time for New Year's Resolutions!  
I know —exercise more, eat less,  
blablabla...

Try this resolution—see more birds in  
2013! Every season brings wonderful

birds to our area and our Club's Bird Walks and Field Trips  
are perfect opportunities to see and learn about the more  
than 300 species that live here or pass through.

Plus, you'll get more exercise too! Happy New Year! We look  
forward to seeing you on the trail.

### Welcome to New Member

Bonnie Baffer

### January Meeting

Join us Wednesday,  
January 16 for *Left Out  
in the Cold* by Andrew  
Dolby. His description  
of the presentation  
follows.

"They've tugged at  
your heartstrings  
before: those balls of  
fluff who wait pa-  
tiently nearby as you  
fill up the feeder on a  
cold January morning.  
While we can't deny  
our winter birds a little  
sunflower seed and  
suet, we can be amazed  
at how tough these  
Carolina Chickadees



and Tufted Titmice really are. Birds are high-performance  
biological machines. How do such small warm-blooded  
animals with impressive energetic demands survive winter,  
when food is scarce and temperatures are cold? This presen-  
tation will cover both anatomical and physiological adapta-  
tions that allow birds to cope with the challenges of winter."

Dr. Dolby has a Ph.D. in Zoology from Ohio State Uni-  
versity and is presently the Chair of the Department of  
Biological Sciences at the University of Mary Washington  
in Fredericksburg, VA.

Plan to join us on January 16 at 7:30 PM in **Room 150,  
Millington Hall** on the W&M campus. Barb Streb will  
be providing the refreshments. **Don't forget to use your  
parking permit.**

### January Field Trip By Shirley Devan



This photo was taken from one of the CBBT islands by John Adair, who  
was on a Hampton Roads Bird Club field trip.

Again this year, the Williamsburg Bird Club is sponsoring  
a birding boat trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel  
Islands Saturday, January 19, 2013. Enjoy our beautiful  
Chesapeake Bay and its winter bird life with us! CVWO  
President and Williamsburg Bird Club member Brian  
Taber will be our trip leader and help us identify the birds.

The Bird Club's Field Trip Coordinator, Geoff Giles, has  
chartered a large comfortable boat for this eye-level look  
at the bay ducks, scoters, shore birds and seabirds plus  
other wonderful species such as the harbor seals we saw  
last year around the tunnel islands. Photo opportunities  
should be very good from the boat. We will stay around  
the CBBT tunnel islands and pilings and will likely go  
as far as Fisherman's Island on the Eastern Shore. If the  
humpback whales are in again, we might head down  
towards Cape Henry once more!

The CBBT area tends to have smoother water than ocean  
trips with many of the same exciting views of birds and  
wildlife. It will be possible to do some birding from the

## Officers

<b>President</b>	813-1322
Shirley Devan	<i>sedevan52@cox.net</i>
<b>Vice-President (Programs)</b>	871-3418
Joe Piotrowski	<i>joepiotrowski@cox.net</i>
<b>Vice-President (The Flyer)</b>	229-4346
Fred Blystone	<i>fmb19481@verizon.net</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	221-6683
Ann Carpenter	<i>gac17D@juno.com</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	229-1775
Cathy Millar	<i>newporthse@widomaker.com</i>
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	221-8506
Geoff Giles	<i>tylerandal2@aol.com</i>
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	565-2597
Jeanette Navia	<i>Jnavia@gmail.com</i>
<b>Past President</b>	259-9559
Bob Long	

## Committee Chairpersons

<b>Field Trips</b>	221-8506
Geoff Giles	<i>tylerandal2@aol.com</i>
<b>Records &amp; Bird Counts</b>	229-1124
Bill Williams	<i>jwwil2@wm.edu</i>
<b>Library Liaison</b>	565-6148
Lee Schuster	<i>dljschuster@cox.net</i>
<b>Refreshments</b>	565-0250
Barb Streb	<i>gandbstreb@verizon.net</i>
<b>Membership/Webmaster</b>	565-2597
Jeanette Navia	<i>jnavia@gmail.com</i>
<b>Adopt-A-Highway</b>	566-2615
John Fennell	<i>maffjf07@netzero.net</i>

## 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.

warm, dry cabin, but the best views and photos will be from outside on deck, so clothing that protects against wind and weather is recommended. We'll enjoy a large, comfortable boat with ample heated cabin space, rest rooms, tables and indoor seating.

We will depart from Lynnhaven Inlet in Virginia Beach on Saturday, January 19, 2013, at 9 AM and return to the dock at about 1 PM. There is a very good seafood restaurant dockside for those inclined to have lunch on return. If the trip gets weathered out, we'll return your check, of course. Should that happen, we will try to offer a rain date. Note that we will not cash your check until after the trip.

Cost is \$25 per person. Your check is your reservation. Sorry—we cannot hold a spot for you until you send a check. Sign up early so we can be sure to have enough people for the trip to go—we need 30. Reservations will be taken on a first come, first served basis until the trip is filled. The maximum number of people for the trip is 60.

Please make checks (\$25.00 per person) payable to "Williamsburg Bird Club" and mail to Geoff Giles, PO Box 133, Lightfoot, VA 23090. Include your email address and phone # so we can get back to you to confirm departure location and contact you if plans change.

For additional info contact me at [sedevan52@cox.net](mailto:sedevan52@cox.net) or (757) 813-1322. More info at Williamsburg Bird Club web site: <http://williamsburgbirdclub.org>.

After January 7, you can also contact Geoff at 757-645-8716 or [tylerandal2@aol.com](mailto:tylerandal2@aol.com)

Hope to see you onboard!

## December 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!

**December 2.** Bettye Fields, George & Virginia Boyles, Marilyn & John Adair, Richard & Barbara Hudgins, Joyce Lowry, and Spencer, Melinda & Myles Quirion joined leader Jane Frigo and other birders for the HRBC walk in Newport News Park. Sixty-six species were seen, including Greater and Lesser Scaup, a small flock of Rusty Blackbirds, a Great Horned Owl, a Virginia Rail and an Eastern Screech Owl.

**December 5.** From Florida, Lois Leeth reports 6 Ring-necked Ducks, 5 Wood Storks and 3 Great Egrets. Bill Williams finds 1 adult female Merlin and 6 Eastern Phoebes at Greensprings Greenway.

**December 6.** Kathi Mestayer has two adult Bald Eagles fly low over her Gilley Drive front yard.

**December 13.** The crew (consisting of Ruth Beck, Brian Taber, Dave Youker and Bill Williams) doing the survey at Craney Island Disposal Area found 63 species, including 1 Eared Grebe and 7 Semipalmated Plovers.

**December 14.** Bill Williams and Mitchell Byrd see the Western Kingbird that had been reported earlier at Chipokes State Park.



**December 14.** Our second report this month from Florida comes from Linda Scherer. She e-mailed “Florida is having an unusual occurrence this week: flocks of Razorbills all along the east coast and some on the Gulf coast, too. We were on the fishing pier at the Boynton Inlet in Palm Beach County yesterday afternoon for about half an hour and saw 5 flocks of 20 to 50 birds heading south. Local birders who were there said that some of the birds have been seen riding the current in and out of the inlet. Several individual birds have washed up on beaches in other areas of the state and been taken to wildlife rehabs.

In the morning, at Wakodahatchee, we were fortunate to find a Neotropical Cormorant roosting among the nesting birds. My husband—the “nonbirder” who usually spots more than I do—found an American Bittern searching for its breakfast. Also had both Great Blue Heron and Anhinga trying to swallow fish that someone called Pelko (?) and a Black-crowned Night Heron fishing intently for over an hour in the same spot. I searched unsuccessfully for the Wurdemann’s Heron who nested close to the boardwalk last year (mated with a regular Great Blue) and raised at least 2 youngsters. I understand that she is back, but nesting in a different area. Hoping to find her before I have to return north in a few weeks.”

**December 16.** Virginia Boyles and Richard Hudgins joined Jane Frigo and other birders for the walk at Newport News Park. Among the 47 species seen were FOS Tundra Swans, American Wigeon and a Common Loon. Once again the group saw the Eastern Screech Owl and the Virginia Rail.

**December 18.** Deb Costello reports that a flock of Gadwall have returned for the winter to her pond.

**December 20.** John & Marilyn Adair and Dave Youker were able to find two Western Grebes at Lake Anna State Park.

**December 21.** Jeanette Navia has a Orange-crowned Warbler show up at her feeder.

**December 22.** Tom Armour has a Purple Finch at his feeder. In addition, he finds a Western Kingbird on Treasure Island Road. After getting Tom’s e-mail, Brian Taber goes and also finds the bird. Shirley Devan and Fred Blystone find the bird at different times on the 23rd.



**December 23.** George & Rosemarie Harris spend some time in Beaverdam Park in Gloucester County. The highlight was 6 Bald Eagles (2 adult, 4 immature) in one tree. Additionally they report that at least a thousand waterfowl were visible from the picnic area. Ring-necked, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Ruddy, Canada Geese, American Coots, and Pied-billed Grebes making up the lot.

### **VSO Winter Field Trip and Annual Conference**

The VSO Outer Banks Fields Trip, led by Bill Akers and Jerry Via, will be held January 31–February 2. Back by popular demand, an optional Friday trip to Lake Mattamuskeet, led by Lee Adams, will be offered. The weekend is expected to feature great waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors, along with a wide assortment of land birds.

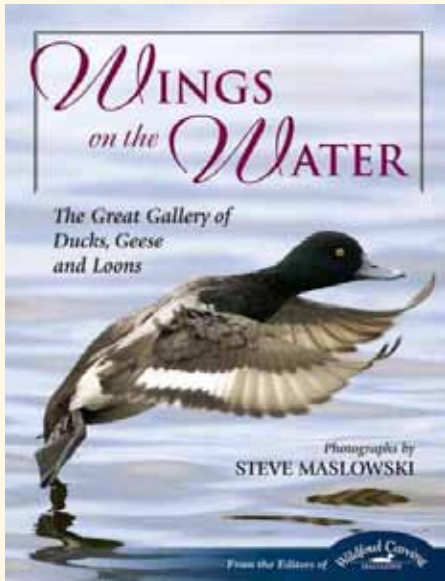
The VSO Annual Meeting will be held in beautiful Loudoun County from April 26–28. Hosted by the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, the weekend will be full of great events and the opportunity for great birding. The Saturday evening banquet speaker is Julie Zickefoose, author of a very popular blog and several books including *The Bluebird Effect*. Friday evening will feature a special program on warbler identification. There will be field trips all three days to some of Northern Virginia’s finest birding hot



spots, a technical paper session on Saturday afternoon, and lots of great exhibits as well as some wonderful vendors on both Friday afternoon and Saturday.

Complete information about both of these events can be found at the VSO website [www.viriniabirds.net](http://www.viriniabirds.net).

### **Williamsburg Bird Club Book or DVD Review** By Jeanette Navia



*Wings on the Water: The Great Gallery of Ducks, Geese and Loons.* Photographs by Steve Maslowski. From the editors of *Wildfowl Carving and Competition*. Stackpole Books, 2012. ISBN 978188198245. \$39.95. 240 p. Williamsburg Library call number 598.4 MAS

Ducks are usually too far out in the water

for me to see clearly, even through a scope. When birding, I try to distinguish them by their general shape, behavior, whether or not they have big patches of white on their heads, or if they have feathers sticking out around their heads like they're having a bad hair day. I've never really looked closely at ducks. But, oh my gosh, the photos of the ducks in this book are beautiful! Included in *Wings on the Water* are com-

mon North American duck species, Canada Geese, Common Loons and Pied-billed Grebe. There are no exotic species here, but viewed up close, all are gorgeous.

The book is a collection of twenty-six articles culled from a quarter century of volumes of *Wildfowl Carving Magazine and Competition*. Each is a study of a waterfowl species or group of related species. The Common, King and Spectacled Eiders are all in one article; the Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling Ducks are in one; the Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes are in one; and the Greater and Lesser Scaups are in another. Because carvers need to know very specific details about the birds they carve, each article describes the birds down to the "vertically vermiculated grey on the sides and buff pink on the breast" of the Green-winged Teal, for instance. Rather than a dry recitation of the birds' measurements and colors, the authors describe lives of the fowl. Migration patterns, breeding, dietary habits and how young are raised are discussed. When hunting is mentioned, it is usually in regards to population decreases that occurred before strict hunting laws were enacted. Conservation efforts are described for several of the species.

All the photos in the book were taken by wildlife photographer Steve Maslowski. There are over 350 photos—at least one on just about every page. Waterfowl are shown close-up and from every angle—front, back, sides, flying, and include shots of most ducks facing head-on. Although the articles were written for the waterfowl carver in mind, the text and especially the photos are great for anyone interested in wild ducks, geese, loons and Pied-billed Grebes.

### **VSO Field Trip to VA. Beach—Dec 7–9, 2012**

By Shirley Devan and Virginia Boyles

The VSO Virginia Beach field trip early in December always starts at the Whitehurst Tract, part of the Princess Anne Wildlife Management Area in the southern part of Virginia Beach. So it was that about 20 birders gathered around 1 PM Friday, December 7 to meet Clark White, Field Trip Coordinator, and Rexanne Bruno, the leader for the afternoon's trek around the tract.

Very little water in the impoundments meant very few ducks. We did find four American Black Ducks, 50 Ring-necked Ducks, and 5 Hooded Mergansers. One of the highlights was the flyover of two dozen Snow Geese and an immature White Ibis. Numerous Tree Swallows entertained as they swooped back and forth overhead. Several folks found the Orange-crowned Warbler early in the walk near the parking lot and then again on the return trip. The bird proved elusive for some despite serious pishing efforts. Other highlights of the 41 species were a Great Egret, Wilson's Snipe, Northern Harrier, Marsh Wren, and Bald Eagle.

Saturday, December 8 found 30 eager birders ready to visit the Islands of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Clark White had arranged for security escorts to the normally closed islands 2, 3 and 4. Heavy fog was the dominant feature for the morning. At island 2 we could hardly see island 1 across the channel. And the fog horns! Each island was blasting horns and it seemed we were standing under the horn on each island. Most birds were flying through the channel in the fog so identification was a challenge in most cases. Island 2 provided us with three Common Eiders, a few Surf Scoters and Black Scoters and numerous fly-through Red-throated Loons.

Island 3 provided the most species diversity including Greater Scaup, White-winged Scoters to go with the other two scoter species, 11 Long-tailed Ducks (known to some as Old Squaw), Common Loon, Great Cormorant, Forster's Tern, and a Peregrine Falcon perched on a light standard as we drove along the bridge.

Island 4 turned up the usual suspects plus about 10 Purple Sandpipers foraging along the rocks. Island 4 also provided the mammal of the day—four harbor seals lounging on the rocks. The number of fishing boats participating in a fishing tournament increased as the morning wore on and succeeded in flushing birds near the rocks as well as disturbing the seals.

In the afternoon, the group diverged and headed for their favorite hot spots on the Eastern Shore. Several found a Common Eider at the beach at Cape Charles along with about two dozen American Oystercatchers. Others headed to the landfill at Oyster for ducks and Magotha Road to look for the local Eurasian Collared-Doves. Some managed a falcon trifecta by finding American Kestrels, a Merlin, and two more Peregrine Falcons in the afternoon.

Birders on the dike.

Photographed by John Adair



Sunday, December 9: We arrived at Back Bay early enough to walk out to the boardwalk, and what a sight. A Bald Eagle watched over the water from a tree, while the numerous Tundra Swans feeding in the early light took your breath away. Ducks were abundant, with American Wigeon, American Black Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers, and Mallards visible. We didn't think it could get any better, but boarded the tram to take a ride. The first impoundment had more! There were Snow Geese, Canada Geese, and lots more ducks, including Northern Pintails! One group of Tundra Swans took flight as the tram stopped, and you could hear the rush of their wings through the open sides of the tram. We observed a flock of forty or so Wilson's Snipe rise from the marsh, circle and land again several times. Once on the ground, they were difficult to find, even with the scopes. At this stop, we enjoyed Double-crested Cormorants, American Coots, Pied-billed Grebes, and a Belted Kingfisher. Then the rain started, and did I say the tram had open sides? It lasted almost half an hour, and those on the outside seats were pretty damp. While confined in the tram, we were entertained by a group of curious Yellow-rumped

Warblers flitting on both sides. Those who were dressed for the rain walked along a dike in the rain and were rewarded with good looks at a Sedge Wren or two. Many observers hoped there would be a special sparrow. There were Swamp Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows along the way, and a Song Sparrow perched on top of a bush to welcome us to the beach later. A small impound yielded Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks. Because it was significantly smaller, a Ross's Goose was readily identified in a small flock of Snow Geese flying over. The tram stopped at the False Cape State Park Visitor's Center, where some chose to enjoy lunch in the rockers on the porch, while others walked to the beach for a look at both kinds of loons, scoters, Northern Gannets, Sanderlings, and Ring-billed Gulls. We had seen Great Black-backed Gulls and Herring Gulls earlier. There was an Eastern Phoebe perched high in a bare tree, an American Robin, Red-winged Blackbirds, and a large group of Northern Flickers observing us as we walked back. No photo could do justice to the sight of hundreds of Tundra Swans and Snow Geese, joined by numerous ducks, Great Egrets and a couple of Great Blue Herons in the last impoundment. Again, a Bald Eagle kept watch from a tree. What a way to end the day!

Mostly Tundra Swans

Photographed by George Boyles



## A Summary of the 2012 Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count

By Bill Williams

We will look back on the 36th annual Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count (CBC) as one for the ages. Indeed, the chronological distribution of our record setting 82 participants (including 21 feeder watchers) spanned 10 decades from age 8 to age 91! What a statement of success that is!

Inclement weather for our CBC has become the norm it seems, so no one was surprised (disappointed yes) that rain was pattering the pavements at daybreak on December 16. At least it wasn't blowing and icy. By mid-morning, thankfully, the precipitation ceased giving way to an overcast yet pleasant, and what turned out to be, very productive day for birding. The final count compilation produced a list of 111 species, 3 above our historic mean of 108. Consider that we also know of 4 species—Wild Turkey, Osprey, American Woodcock and Laughing Gull—that were detected in the count circle 3 days before and/or after 16 December (officially "Count Week" species when reported to Audubon) that did not make the count-day list. Our collaborative efforts set all-time CBC high-count records for no less than 17 species, some of which have stood for more than 30 years (see table). As you scan this information note how many of these new benchmarks were probably the result of the feeder watch contributions.

Species	2012 Count	Previous High Count	Previous High Count Date
Red-throated Loon	18	5	19 Dec 2004
Double-crested Cormorant	2549	1719	18 Dec 2011
Belted Kingfisher	43	42	16 Dec 1984
Red-headed Woodpecker	32	30	15 Dec 2002
Red-bellied Woodpecker	205	140	19 Dec 2010
Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers	79	46	17 Dec 1989
Pileated Woodpecker	52	51	16 Dec 1990
Carolina Chickadee	395	391	19 Dec 1982
Tufted Titmouse	369	273	19 Dec 1982
Red-breasted Nuthatch	51	24	20 Dec 1981
Winter Wren	22	16	22 Dec 1996
Carolina Wren	283	238	16 Dec 1984
Eastern Bluebird	386	258	18 Dec 1983
Hermit Thrush	57	55	17 Dec 1989
Chipping Sparrow	263	213	16 Dec 2007
White-throated Sparrow	1386	1192	18 Dec 1983
Northern Cardinal	442	382	17 Dec 1989

Of course every count participant hopes to encounter birds that are rare or exceptional. The Skimino section documented our first CBC Mallard x American Black Duck hybrid. Hog Island served up a Blue-winged Teal, not reported on the CBC since 2 were found on the 15 December 2002 count, an American Bittern, our first since 17 Dec 2006; a Lesser Black-backed Gull, last recorded 20 Dec 2009; a Tree Swallow, most recently noted on 21 Dec 2008; and a Sedge Wren (we had one in 2011). Jamestown came through with 2 Sora, the first since 19 December 1993. In the Cheatham section there were 9 Dunlin at Felgate's Creek and a *Selasphorus rufous/sasin* hummingbird, nicely photographed by Valerie Copping in Queens Lake. For a second consecutive year a "staked out" Western Tanager was in Settlers' Mill as was a Baltimore Oriole in Ford's Colony. A \$5.00 first-to-see-the-tanager bounty "paid off" for easily inattentive, impatient feeder-watching granddaughters after a 2½ hour vigil. Whew!!!

Continuing our recent tradition, Carrot Tree Kitchen extended its seasonal hospitality by providing us space and sumptu-



ous sustenance for our CBC compilation celebration. An unofficial tally of attendees there showed at least 40 folks were present. Please take a moment to express your appreciation to Carrot Tree owner Debi Helseth and her staff for their efforts on behalf of the bird club's citizen science endeavors. We'll not know for sure who the secret elves are who contribute to making this happen, but they are as precious to us as the rarest of birds!

## Ripples from Across the Pond

by Geoff Brunton

Continued from the December newsletter.

“OK ...Ok. I know you kept asking about my new birds, so here they are. As I've said before, this was my second visit to Virginia so not everything was new, but here follows a list of all the New Virginia birds I saw (in chronological order) together with any suitable comments.

Pied-billed grebe	Oct 9th	Powhatan Resort	Seen in UK (1997 & 2011.)
Carolina Chickadee	Oct 9th	Powhatan Resort	Lifer
Song Sparrow	Oct 9th	Powhatan Resort	Lifer
Mute Swan	Oct 10th	Powhatan Resort	Common in UK
Turnstone	Oct 10th	C.B.B.Tunnel	Regular passage bird on my local patch
Ring-billed Gull	Oct 10th	C.B.B.Tunnel	Seen in UK (2000/2010/2011/2012)
Ruddy Duck	Oct 12th	Powhatan Resort	Common in UK up to the Cull !!!!!!!!!!!!!
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Oct 13th	Powhatan Resort	Lifer. My first Butter-butt !
White-breasted Nuthatch	Oct 14th	Geoff's feeder	Lifer
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Oct 14th	Geoff's feeder	Lifer
Pileated Woodpecker	Oct 14th	York River S.P.	Lifer
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Oct 14th	York River S.P.	Lifer
Downy Woodpecker	Oct 14th	York River S.P.	Lifer
White-throated Sparrow	Oct 14th	York River S.P.	Seen in Yorkshire, UK (2002)
Cedar Waxwing	Oct 14th	York River S.P.	Lifer
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Oct 19th	Powhatan Resort	Lifer
Pine Warbler	Oct 20th	Sunset Beach	Lifer
Eastern Meadowlark	Oct 20th	Sunset Beach	Lifer
Swamp Sparrow	Oct 20th	Oyster	Lifer
Whimbrel	Oct 20th	Oyster	Regular spring passage on my local patch
Northern Harrier	Oct 20th	Oyster	Subspecies Lifer
Peregrine	Oct 20th	Oyster	Increasing population in UK
Snowy Egret	Oct 20th	Cheriton Dump	Seen in Scotland, UK (2002)
Black-crowned Night Heron	Oct 20th	Cheriton Dump	Seen in UK (1999,2004 &2007)
Tricolored Heron	Oct 20th	Cheriton Dump	Lifer
American Coot	Oct 20th	Cheriton Dump	Lifer
Little Blue Heron	Oct 20th	Cheriton Dump	Lifer
Palm Warbler	Oct 20th	Cheriton Dump	Lifer
White Ibis	Oct 20th	Cheriton Dump	Lifer
Black Duck	Oct 20th	Cheriton Dump	Seen in UK (1999 & 2000)
House Wren	Oct 20th	Kiptopeke	Lifer
Gold-crowned Kinglet	Oct 20th	Kiptopeke	Lifer

Savannah Sparrow	Oct 20th	Kiptopeke	Lifer
Purple Finch	Oct 20th	Kiptopeke	Lifer
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Oct 20th	Kiptopeke	Lifer
Merlin	Oct 20th	Ramp Road	Seen yearly on local patch
Sanderling	Oct 20th	C.B.B.Tunnel	Regular passage bird on my local patch

Summary

The Kiptopeke outing:

Total species seen: 68      New birds for Virginia: 21      Lifers: 14

Virginia 2012:

Total species seen: 87      New birds for Virginia: 37      Lifers: 24

My Virginia list now stands at 108

...and that just about wraps it up, I'm sure you've all got something more important to be doing than reading these ramblings of mine. So all that remains for me to do is wish everybody I met and those I have yet to meet ...Happy Birding... and if you're ever in the UK close to God's own County (Yorkshire) and need some birding therapy please don't hesitate to give me a call, I'm pretty sure we could arrange something.

So as we say in Yorkshire...

...Al Sithee

**WBC December 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 December 8th at NQP.**

Leader Jim Corliss was joined by Geoff Giles, Joyce Lowry, Betty Peterson, Nelson Ensley, Susan Nordholm, Miles & Spencer Quirion, Sarah, Jason & Adam Bollinger, Tom McCary, Cathy Millar, Rock Moeslein, and Bob & Cynthia Long for the walk at New Quarter Park. There were a total of 35 species identified during the morning, including 1 Northern Harrier, 5 Red-headed Woodpeckers, and 2 Hairy Woodpeckers. (There was no group photo taken)



**Bird Walk on December 22nd at NQP**

Shirley Devan e-mailed that nine hearty birders turned up at New Quarter Park for the final bird walk of 2012. Bill Williams led the group and kept score of the birds—a total of 33 species were identified, including 1 Common Loon, 2 Northern Harriers, 1 Red-tailed Hawk and 1 Fox Sparrow.

Left to right, seated: Shirley Devan, Linda Morse, Joyce Lowry, Cheryl Jacobson, Alan Bragg. Standing: Janice Lockwood, Bill Williams, Geoff Giles. Not pictured: Cathy Bond



**Photos**



Thomas Moore, in Governor's Land, took this photo of a Rufous Hummingbird.



An Eastern Bluebird photographed by Inge Curtis.



Christmas Carolina Chickadee photo taken by Inge Curtis.



Susan Powell, Jennifer Trevino, and Mike Powell were photographed by fellow team member Sharon Plocher during the Christmas Bird Count.

## 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 January (This month's photo is by Jeanette Navia)

December's photo was of a Wood Duck.



## CALENDAR

Thursday, January 10	HRBC Monthly Meeting, <a href="http://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org">www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org</a> for more information
Saturday, January 12	WBC Bird Walk, NQP, 8AM, Jim Corliss, Leader
Saturday, January 12	HRBC Field Trip, <a href="http://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org">www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org</a> for more information
Wednesday, January 16	WBC Monthly Meeting. See front page.
Saturday, January 19	WBC Boat Trip on the Chesapeake Bay. See front page.
Sunday, January 20	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, January 26	WBC Bird Walk, NQP, 7AM, Bill Williams, Leader.
Jan. 31–Feb. 2	VSO Winter Trip to the Outer Banks. See page 3
April 26–28	VSO Annual Meeting. See page 3