



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol 37. No. 8

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

October 2013



### President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

Each year the entire Board of the Bird Club is up for election. Often Board members agree to serve another term. Each fall the Nominating Committee prepares a slate of officers for approval

at the November Club meeting (November 20 this year).

This year three Board members are stepping down and their roles will need to be filled:

- Shirley Devan, President
- Fred Blystone, VP and Editor of *The Flyer*
- Joe Piotrowski, VP of Programs

Ann Carpenter, Treasurer, Cathy Millar, Secretary, and Jeanette Navia, Member-at-Large, will continue in their roles for 2014. As Past President, I will continue to serve on the Board.

The Bird Club needs **you!** Will you consider sharing a few hours of your time each month with the Bird Club? We have so many capable, talented, and energetic members in our Club. I am confident that members will step forward to serve the Bird Club in 2014!

The Williamsburg Bird Club is an independent 501(c) 3 non-profit, community-based, all volunteer, member-supported organization. The Club can do just about whatever it wishes to do within the very broad scope of our mission: promote interest in the study of wild birds and in the protection of birds and their habitats.

Our Bird Club has a very active membership of about 200 members. We are fortunate to have a rich history and wonderful traditions—all well documented and institutionalized. Our founding members, Ruth Beck and Bill Williams, are active in our Club and willingly lend valuable insight, wisdom, and guidance as needed.

So we do not have to re-invent the wheel! New Board members follow in well-traveled footsteps with mentors to lend advice. That being said, the board is open to new ideas and projects that support our membership, the community, and the birds. The Board is a congenial group; we meet four times per year. **Drama** is not a part of this Board!

I hope you will contact one of us on the Nominating Committee by November 1: Jeanette Navia ([jnavia@gmail.com](mailto:jnavia@gmail.com)), Bill Williams ([billwilliams154@gmail.com](mailto:billwilliams154@gmail.com)), or me ([sedevan52@cox.net](mailto:sedevan52@cox.net)). If you have questions about any of the positions or want to throw your hat in the ring, please let us hear from you. Thank you, as always, for your support.

### October Meeting.



The October meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, the 16th. Fletcher Smith of the Center for Conservation Biology will present a program titled *Satellite Tracking and Migration Ecology of the Whimbrel*. Fletcher works with a diversity of bird species throughout the western hemisphere, following migrants from their breeding to winter grounds. His current research projects include work with Whimbrels, Red Knots, Marsh Sparrows, and neo-tropical migrants. In addition, he also conducts breeding bird surveys, manages the Saw-whet Owl banding program, and is the Center's primary rocket netter.

Refreshments will be provided by Geoff Giles.

**The meetings this year will be in Andrews Hall, Room 101. Please be sure to display your parking permit on the dashboard of your car.**

## Officers

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

## Committee Chairpersons

<b>Field Trips</b>	221-8506
Geoff Giles	<a href="mailto:tylerandal2@aol.com">tylerandal2@aol.com</a>
<b>Records &amp; Bird Counts</b>	229-1124
Bill Williams	<a href="mailto:billwilliams@gmail.com">billwilliams@gmail.com</a>
<b>Library Liaison</b>	565-6148
Lee Schuster	<a href="mailto:dljschuster@cox.net">dljschuster@cox.net</a>
<b>Refreshments</b>	565-0250
Barb Streb	<a href="mailto:gandbstreb@verizon.net">gandbstreb@verizon.net</a>
<b>Membership/Webmaster</b>	565-2597
Jeanette Navia	<a href="mailto:jnavia@gmail.com">jnavia@gmail.com</a>
<b>Adopt-A-Highway</b>	566-2615
John Fennell	<a href="mailto:mafjf07@netzero.net">mafjf07@netzero.net</a>

## Updated Summary of Bird Data

The latest version of Bill Williams' *Summary of Local Bird Data through 2012: 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.

## October Field Trip

By Geoff Giles

Join us on Saturday, 19 October for a morning of birding along the bay shore at Grandview. If you need more time being up close and personal with shore and marsh birds, and an expert to help you sort them out, this is the trip for you! Binocs and spotting scopes will serve you well for birds on the beaches and on the water.

Dave Youker will lead us on this trip and Grandview is one of his home patches. We will be covering level trails through scrub forest, marshland, bay beaches and dunes. It is migration time along this coastline, so be ready for surprises. Chances are good we'll see a fling of dunlins doing their amazing coordinated flock flight drills, which they practice frequently to baffle predators. And we may well see a predator or two out for a morning meal among the shore and marsh birds!

We will depart from Colony Square Shopping Center (on Jamestown Road just south of its intersection with Rte 199) at 7:30 AM on Saturday, 19 October, to carpool and caravan to Grandview. No worries about bugs that time of the year. As always, dress for comfort according to the weather. We encourage you to bring snacks or a picnic lunch, and plan to finish our birding around mid-day. No need to sign up in advance, simply join us and enjoy the day. Let's see what the migration brings to our bay shores! For any questions or further info, contact Geoff Giles at [tylerandal2@aol.com](mailto:tylerandal2@aol.com) or 757-645-8716.

## Reported Sightings For September

Report your backyard birds and local sightings to Fred Blystone at 229-4346 or [fredblystone@gmail.com](mailto:fredblystone@gmail.com). If you encounter interesting birds on your vacation/travels, please share!

**September 1.** At Newport News Park, Rock Moelsein, Barbara & Richard Hudgins, John & Marilyn Adair and Virginia & George Boyles joined leader Jane Frigo and other birders for the HRBC bird walk. The group identified 45 bird species, 2 cotton mouth snakes, a pair of **huge** snapping turtles, and a box turtle. The early morning was particularly active with Black-and-white warblers and a Summer Tanager starting the day off. Three Bald Eagles were seen—two adult and one juvenile. Red-headed Woodpeckers were active across from the first bridge. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was having a feast on the Lantana by the shelters in the Arboretum.

**September 5.** Bob Ake, Ruth Beck, Virginia and George Boyles, Shirley Devan, Alex Minarik, Brian Taber, and Bill Williams had a good day doing the Craney Island survey. Eighty species were identified, including 1,216 Northern Shovelers, 16 Black-necked Stilts, 71 American Avocets, 270 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 12 Red-necked Phalaropes.

**September 8.** From Florida, Lois Leeth reports seeing 2 Anhingas, 20 Roseate Spoonbills, 12 Wood Storks, 2 Great Egrets, 4 Snowy Egrets, and 8 Mallards.

**September 17.** Ruth Beck, Virginia Boyles, Alex Minarik, Brian Taber, Dave Youker, and Bill Williams conducted the Craney Island survey. On a windy day they were able to identify 67 species, including 2 Baird's Sandpipers and 1 Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

**September 19.** Scores of Tree Swallows and a Great Egret were spotted flying over Shirley Plantation by Tom McCary.

**September 24.** During the Craney Island survey, Ruth Beck, Alex Minarik, Virginia & George Boyles, Dave Youker, and Bill Williams identified 78 species including 7 Green-winged Teal, 1 juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 24 American Avocets, and 11 Black-bellied Plover.

**September 25.** While in the parking lot in front of Martin's grocery store, Tom McCary spots an adult Bald Eagle.

**September 26.** Lois Leeth, reporting from Florida, sees 24 White Ibis, 1 female Northern Harrier, 1 Swallow-tailed Kite, 8 Roseate Spoonbills, 6 Wood Storks, 3 Great Egrets, 2 Cattle Egrets, 6 Snowy Egrets, and 6 Mallards.

**September 27.** George & Rosemarie Harris and John & Marilyn Adair went birding at the Rappahannock River Valley NWR-Wilna Unit. They identified 31 species including 1 Olive-sided Flycatcher.

**September 29.** Tom McCary reports a new yard bird—a Pileated Woodpecker. It's a bird he has seen previously in his neighborhood, but never before in his yard.

### **Upcoming Events**

Haven't decorated for Halloween yet? Really!! So much for planning ahead. That said, be sure to set your sights on Sunday, December 15, 2013 for the **Williamsburg Bird Club's Christmas Bird Count**.

Last year we almost topped the 90 participant mark. Can we break 100 this year? It's up to you!! More information will follow in the coming months.

Taking place October 11–13 and based in Cape Charles, Virginia, the **Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival** is the perfect opportunity to experience the wonders of wildlife—from the keynote presentation by Greg Miller whose own Big Year inspired the book and movie of the same name, to unparalleled guided tours, boat trips, nature hikes, and much more.

It's an incredible chance to catch sightings of species you've never seen before. As one of the most important migration stop-overs on the East Coast, millions of songbirds and butterflies and thousands of raptors will converge here on their long journey south. With the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge and Kiptopeke State Park nearby, this is a migration celebration you'll always remember. More information at [www.esvfestivals.org](http://www.esvfestivals.org)

The **VSO annual field trip to Virginia Beach** will be held Friday, December 6 through Sunday, December 8, 2013. The kick-off for the weekend will be a Friday afternoon trip to Pleasure House Point led by Rexanne Bruno for those arriving early. Other field trips include a visit to the Chesa-

peake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) on Saturday morning, a Saturday afternoon trip to Fisherman Island led by USFWS volunteers from Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge, and a tram ride at Back Bay NWR and False Cape State Park on Sunday morning. For more information go to [http://www.virginiabirds.net/f\\_trips.html#chinc2013](http://www.virginiabirds.net/f_trips.html#chinc2013)

### **The Center for Conservation Biology launches new and improved eagle nest locator From Mike Wilson—Center for Conservation Biology**

One of the central missions of The Center for Conservation Biology is to provide information needed by regulatory agencies and the public to enable responsible land-use decisions. Since 2009, CCB has provided bald eagle survey results within an online Google mapping application. This application provides information to regulatory agencies and permit applicants needed to assess potential impacts of construction projects to eagles and allows the public to explore eagle distribution in Virginia. Since its initial launch, the online eagle nest locator has become central to the environmental review process. During 2012 the site was visited more than 40,000 times by regulatory agencies and the public. Access to survey information is changing business and benefiting eagles.

The new Virginia Bald Eagle Nest Locator has several upgrades that were developed in response to requests received by CCB and represent our attempt to better serve the public. Upgrades include 1) updated data for the 2013 breeding season, 2) addition of 100 and 200-m buffers to assist with land planning relative to national and state management guidelines, 3) a search window for navigation to a GPS coordinate or address, and 4) print capability within the internet browser.

CCB would like to express our appreciation to the public for exploring the nest locator and reporting eagle nests that were previously unknown to us. Marie Pitts ([mlpitts@wm.edu](mailto:mlpitts@wm.edu)) is managing the nest locator and is happy to receive information on unknown nests, questions, or comments.

Visit Eagle Nest Locator at:

<http://www.ccbirds.org/what-we-do/research/species-of-concern/virginia-eagles/nest-locator/>

### **Bird Club Book Fair, November 20 From Shirley Devan**

Treasures and surprises await you at the Bird Club's First Book Fair!

Mark your calendars for the November 20 Bird Club meeting when we'll have a "Book Fair" to plump up our Club's treasury with funds for scholarships in 2014.

Bring your gently used bird books—field guides or bird-related books (fiction or non-fiction)—to the November 20 meeting. Please, no magazines for this event!

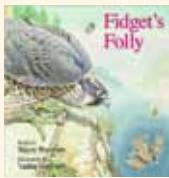
Arrive by 7 PM with your books and set them out on the tables provided at the back of the room. If you want take your leftovers home with you at the end of the meeting, be sure to label them somehow with your name.

Unclaimed leftovers at the end of the meeting will be donated to the Williamsburg Library Book Nook.

Meeting participants who want to “plump up” their own library (or shop for holiday gifts!) should drop \$1 in the bird box for paperbacks and \$2 for hard covers. Correct change will be much appreciated.

## Williamsburg Bird Club Book Review

By Jeanette Navia



*Fidget's Folly*, by Stacey Patterson and Vadim Gorbatov. Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2012. ISBN 9780878425945. \$14.95. 36 p. Williamsburg Library call number JE PATERSON.

One of the books purchased this year by the Williamsburg Regional Library with our annual Williamsburg Bird Club donation was a children's picture book about a young peregrine falcon named Fidget and her brother Echo. *Fidget's Folly*, written by Stacey Patterson and beautifully illustrated by Vadim Gorbatov, is the second book published about Fidget. Unfortunately, the library does not own the first book, *Fidget's Freedom*.

A short recap of *Fidget's Freedom* in the beginning of *Fidget's Folly* explains that in the first book, two young peregrine falcons, who had been born in incubators, were living in a “hack box,” cared for by human attendants. The attendants would leave food for the birds until the peregrines learned to fly and hunt by themselves. A short note about the effects of DDT on peregrine eggs explains why the birds were not born naturally.

The folly in *Fidget's Folly* is that, because Fidget had been able to fly a little, as shown in the previous book, she wanted her brother Echo to fly also. She is impatient, and pushes him out of the hack box before he is ready. What becomes of him? You will need to read the story to find out. (It has a happy ending, at least for the two falcons). The two peregrines do learn to hunt for and kill small birds for themselves, and are able to leave the hack box in the end.

The suggested age range for these books is 7–10, though I think younger children would enjoy the story and pictures as well. I, as an adult, appreciated the artwork and en-

joyed the way conservation efforts were highlighted using the story of the anthropomorphized falcons. The writer, Stacey Patterson, works in a medical setting, volunteers at a wildlife organization in Los Angeles, and is a falconer. She owns a peregrine named Larissa. Vadim Gorbatov traveled to meet the author and to see the American West, which is the story setting shown in background illustrations. Gorbatov has been described as “Russia’s premier wildlife artist.” Indeed, the illustrations in *Fidget's Folly* are gorgeous. They are realistic depictions of the falcons, mostly up close, showing determination in the faces of the young falcons as they navigate the perils of fledging. As the cover flaps explain, “*Fidget's Folly* is published in cooperation with the Raptor Education Foundation, whose mission is to advance environmental literacy through educational programs, books, research services, and their website: [www.usaref.org](http://www.usaref.org)”. It's a great way to introduce young children to the work of conservationists.

## Tucson Birding Festival

By Cheryl J. Jacobson

What do these birds have in common?

**Warblers:** Lucy's, MacGillivray's, Red-faced, Olive, and Orange crowned

**Flycatchers:** Cordilleran, Brown-crested, Dusky-capped, Dusky, Gray, Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, Greater Wood-Pewee and Western wood Pewee

**Woodpeckers:** Gila Woodpecker and Arizona Woodpecker (only brown woodpecker)

**Hawks:** Gray, Zone Tailed and Harris

**Sparrows:** Rufous-winged, Botteri's, Cassin's and Five-striped

**Other:** Neotropic Cormorant, Mexican Jay, Chihuahuan Raven, Bells Vireo, Black-capped Gnatcatcher, Canyon Towhee, Varied Bunting, and Broad Tailed Hummingbird

These are 30 birds that I added to my Life-List when I attended the Tucson Birding Festival in August. I have attended many festivals in the United States and I consider this one as probably the best. My main reason is due to the excellent people leading the field trips. Most of them were local residents who are employed as Naturalists/ Leaders by RockJumper (a company that does Worldwide Birding Adventures). They could name all the birds, plants, reptiles etc. seen on the field trips and provided great transportation to the locations, some of which were remote.

One of my favorite field trips took us by van down California Gulch to within a quarter mile of Mexico. The

trip leader does that area for the Christmas Bird Count and like all the leaders, knew the area very well. He told the story about one count when the Mexican Army came charging up in jeeps with guns pulled claiming they were in Mexico. The count leader had a GPS, topological maps and spoke Spanish. Eventually he convinced the Mexican Army that they were in the U.S. and they put away their guns and left. I will gladly take rain, wind, and cold for our Christmas Count!

So, if you are looking for a great festival, consider the Tucson Birding Festival.

## **VSO Field Trip to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague National Seashore, September 13–15, 2013**

**By Cheryl Jacobson and Jan Lockwood**

A new field trip offered this year was a pontoon boat trip along the shoreline of the islands led by Ruth Beck. This provided a great opportunity to get up close looks at numerous species of shore birds. Although most of them were our common birds, it is always a joy to see the brilliant bill of the American Oystercatcher. Good views were seen of Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Willets, Lesser Yellowlegs, Marbled Godwits, Ruddy Turnstone, and Short-billed Dowitchers. Also seen were Clapper Rail, Tricolored Heron, and Snowy and Great Egret. Since the boat captain is a local person, he had many interesting stories to tell about the history of the area. Following in his grandfather and father's boots (literally), he is a Salt Water Cowboy who participates in rounding up the ponies each year.

On a warm sunlit Saturday afternoon we boarded a bus for our second field trip, a Wildlife tour of Washington Flats. These fourteen thousand acres of Assateague Island are accessible to the public only through these tours. We were accompanied by a refuge interpreter/guide and Jerry Via (VSO) to spot and identify the birds.

Our driver/guide explained that the refuge management uses dams and gates to adjust the water levels in the impoundments seasonally to support a diversity of wildlife. Water is allowed to rise from September to November for over-wintering waterfowl and to drain during the summer. One area is fenced to protect the Piping Plover and the maritime forests are managed for animal species.

Within minutes we encountered a small brown Sika Elk introduced from Japan in the 1920s. Unlike the native White-tail deer, the Sika has upper canine teeth and bugles. Since the largest predator on the refuge is the red fox, the herds of Sika and deer are culled to limit their numbers and overgrazing. A sighting of the wild ponies of Assateague is prized—and zealously photographed—by most visitors. We were interested to see the Cattle Egret

accompanying a family of ponies grazing on the saltmarsh grasses. The Egret eats biting flies and ticks from the coats and legs of the ponies, while the ponies' movements flush hidden insects for the birds to eat. To lessen the impact of the herd on island ecology, its size is managed by the annual pony penning during which most of the foals and yearlings are auctioned off to benefit the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company. The recovery of the endangered Delmarva Fox Squirrel is encouraged in select areas of the forest by clearing the understory and erecting nestboxes. Approximately 350 of these large gray animals, which are roughly twice the size of the Eastern Gray Squirrel, now live on the refuge.

While the Cattle Egret and its symbiotic relationship with the ponies was memorable, the ponds and bay shorelines also gave us good views of Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Spotted Sandpiper, as well as Tricolored and Green Heron. Numerous raptors—three Merlin, a Peregrine Falcon, a Northern Harrier, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Osprey, and Eagle—made many songbirds wary, but a Lark Sparrow proved to be the bird of the day, delighting us with lengthy and unobstructed views as he hopped around and under low branches.

Our final field trip of the weekend was the Sunday morning Warbler Walk on the Woodland Trail led by Bill Aker. It was a sunny and crisp fall morning and we hoped that the cooler temperatures overnight had brought migrants into the area and that our walk was aptly named! Indeed, the bird of the day was the Black-throated Green Warbler. We were treated to many sightings of their vivid yellow faces, several at eye level. We also found Pine Warbler, Black and White Warbler, American Redstart, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, and House Wren, in addition to the familiar woodland birds. Also spotted were the Delmarva Fox Squirrel and several butterflies, including the Red spotted Purple and Common Wood Nymph.

Following a phone tip that a Clay-colored Sparrow had been seen at Swan's Cove, most of the field trip participants drove there in search of the bird. We quickly learned that it was probably a misidentified Chipping Sparrow, but Ruth Beck kindly directed us to views of two Piping Plover—an extraordinary end to a weekend of best birds.

A bonus of attending a VSO Field Trip is the willingness of excellent birders to help others locate birds. Our hopes were to find the Bar-tailed Godwit that has been showing up on the eBird alerts. When we first got to the island, we immediately went to Swan Cove to seek him out. We met a couple

who had scopes set up and who soon spotted him among a group of Willets and Marbled Godwits. Because he kept tucking his head under his wing, it would have been difficult for us to identify him without their assistance. Identification marks are a very mottled back, a bold supercilium, and a slight upturned bill with pink at the tip. An interesting note is that he takes the longest non-stop flight of any bird. One female flew non-stop from Alaska to New Zealand.

### **Great Blue Herons Rebound in the Chesapeake Bay —**

**By Bryan Watts—Center for Conservation Biology**

Breeding populations of Great Blue Herons have made a dramatic comeback within the Chesapeake Bay, according to a 2013 survey conducted by The Center for Conservation Biology. As with bald eagles and osprey, great blue heron populations suffered deep declines during the DDT era, reaching a low in the late 1960s of approximately a dozen known breeding colonies. The 2013 survey documented 14,126 pairs within 407 breeding colonies making the species the most widespread and abundant breeding waterbird in the Chesapeake Bay. The population would consume an estimated 8 metric tons of fish annually. Colonies were documented within every county along the tidal reach of the estuary.

An interesting finding of the survey is that the size of breeding colonies has been declining for more than a decade. The average colony size in 2013 was 35 pairs compared to more than 110 pairs in 1985. Large colonies that were stable for decades have begun to splinter and scatter across the landscape. Although the underlying cause of the decline remains unclear, one possible contributing factor may be the recovery of bald eagles. Bald eagles now nest in a growing number of heron colonies. The largest colony in the Bay on Pooles Island (1,450 pairs) now contains 4 bald eagle nests and the second largest colony on Mason Neck (1,250 pairs) now contains 2 eagle nests.

In addition to great blue herons, the survey also included great egrets. More associated with coastal waters and never as common as great blue herons in the Chesapeake Bay, 1,775 egret pairs were found in 39 colonies. This number represents a nearly 3 fold increase in the population over the past 30 years.

The 2013 aerial survey conducted by Bryan Watts and Bart Paxton required 200 hours of flying and covered more than 900 tidal tributaries of the Chesapeake. Funding for the survey was provided by the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and The Center for Conservation Biology. The Center for Conservation Biology is a research unit within the College of William and Mary and the Virginia Commonwealth University.

October 2013

### **Educator Position at Kiptopeke**

**From Brian Taber**

Coastal VA Wildlife Observatory has hired an Environmental Educator to give programs, at no cost, at Kiptopeke State Park, about bird and butterfly migration and our research programs...at 10am and 2pm daily except Mondays and Thursdays....now through Nov 15th. The meeting place is the picnic shelter by the Hawkwatch platform. Short field trips through the diverse habitat types will also be conducted.

### **Photos taken at September 18th Meeting**

**Photos by Cathy Millar**



George Copping of Wild Birds Unlimited presents a check for \$625 to our Treasurer, Ann Carpenter, and President, Shirley Devan. This represents the 5% rebate the Wil-



liamsburg Bird Club received for sales to club members during a six month period.

Audrey Root (left) and Zoe Averett (right), recipients of the Bird Club's Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships in 2013, receive congratulations from President Shirley Devan.

## September Bird Walks & Field Trip

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



Standing (Left to right): Jennifer Trevino, Sherry Brubaker, Bill Williams, Alexi Brubaker, Dorothy Kroenlein, Dave Kroenlein, Sharon Plocher, Nelson Ensley, Doug Dwoyer, Roc Moeslein, Geoff Giles, Mike Woodward. Sitting (Left to right): Shirley Devan, Deborah Eichelberger, Patty Ralabate, Sara Lewis, Sandy Robertson, Joanne Andres, Cathy Millar, Claire Stephens. Not pictured: Bruce Glendening, Joyce Lowry, Marion and Rick Bennett

on our Bird Walks. The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron showed off as it flew up Queen's Creek. Most folks got a look at one of the several American Redstarts—another migrating warbler we see this time of year.”

### Field Trip to Hog Island—Sept. 21st

Leader Bill Williams led 20 other birders on the field trip to Hog Island. Thirty-seven species of birds were identified. Highlight for many of the birders was the Bobolink—26 of them. Other highlights were Caspian Terns, 3 Osprey that were still hanging around, 2 juvenile Bald Eagles and 3 Blue Grosbeaks. Here's the group photo Shirley Devan took with the group's new best friend, an Eastern Rat Snake discovered on the road in the shade. The snake was fairly sluggish until Bill picked it up by its

tail. It then took off and headed back to the woods.



Front row, left to right: Bruce Glendening, Linda Scherer, Joanne Andrews, Sherry Brubaker, Cathy Millar, Cheryl Jacobson, Bill Williams, Daniel Keener. Back row: Nancy Pledger, Ron Giese, Althea MacWhorter, Rick Lowry, Joyce Lowry, Jan Lockwood, Alexali Brubaker, Geoff Giles, Chris Monahan, Sandy Robertson, Tina Stemberga. [Also in the photo but not visible: Sylvia Giese.]

### Bird Walk on September 14th at NQP

From Shirley Devan: “Great to see so many birders at New Quarter Park this morning—25 in all. We observed 32 species, thanks to leader Bill for pointing out the birds and helping us find them! The bird of the morning was the Merlin, an early migrant per Bill, and he gave us good looks as he circled a couple of times over the floating dock—not a bird we see very often

## Bird Walk on September 28th at NQP



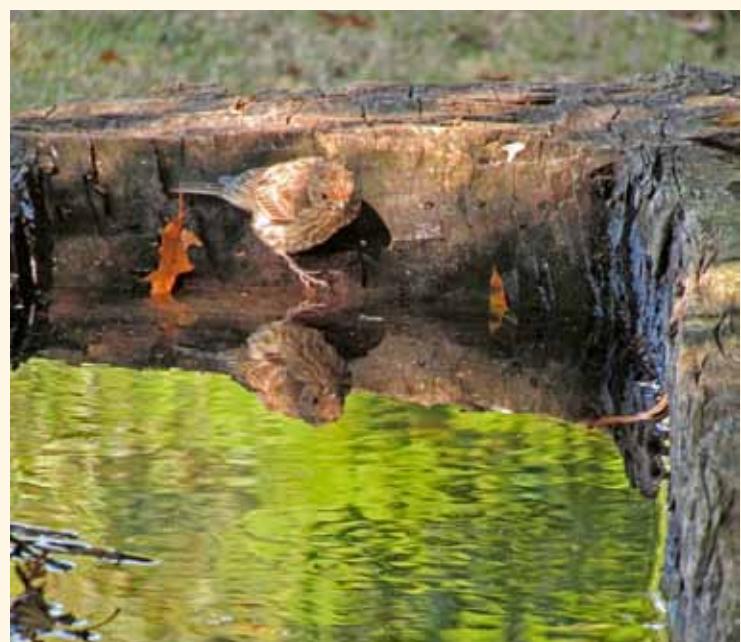
Front row: Cheryl Jacobson, Deb Woodward, Jan Lockwood, Suzanne Masten, Ed MastenBack row: Tina Stemberga, Sandy Robertson, Jim Corliss, Shirley Devan. Not pictured: John Gresham

Jim Corliss was leader for the birders who participated in the walk at New Quarter Park. A total of 30 species were identified, including 2 Tundra Swans, 3 Clapper Rails, and 1 Eastern Screech-Owl (calling near lower picnic shelter).

## Photo from Members



Shirley Devan photographed this Bald Eagle during the New Quarter Park walk on September 28th.



This House Finch was photographed on September 21st by Fred Blystone at Great Hopes Plantaiton

## Photos from Members



## More Photos from Members



George & Virginia Boyles provided these three photos that they took at Craney Island.. Above is a juvenile White Ibis, to the right is a Baird's Sandpiper and below is a Glossy Ibis.



## Bird ID Photos

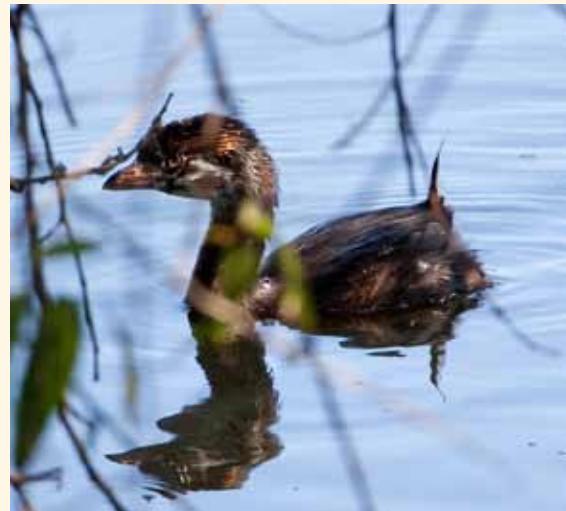
By Joe Piotrowski

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 October

September's Photo was of a  
Pied-billed Grebe



## CALENDAR

Thursday, October 10	HRBC Monthly Meeting. Audubon Hog Island Camp and Project Puffin—Presented by Doug Rogers. See <a href="http://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org">www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org</a> for further information.
October 11–13	Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival. See Page 3
Saturday, October 12	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM. Jim Corliss, Leader
Wednesday, October 16	WBC Monthly Meeting. See Front Page
Saturday, October 19	WBC Field Trip to Grandview. See Page 2
Sunday, October 20	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM. Jame Frigo, Leader.
Saturday, October 26	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7am, Jim Corliss, Leader
Sunday, October 27	HRBC Field Trip to Kiptopeke State Park and the Eastern Shore. See <a href="http://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org">www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org</a> for further information.
December 6–8	VSO Field Trip to Virginia Beach. See Page 3
Sunday, December 15	<b>Save the Date</b> —Williamsburg Bird Club's Christmas Bird Count. Info to follow