



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 38, No. 3

www.williamsburgbirdclub.org

March 2014

President's Corner

By Geoff Giles



You know what was wrong with our CBBT boat trip this year? Well...actually nothing!! In mid-February we had a mild and beautiful day, everyone who signed up made it and got to see some great birds and we all had a very enjoyable day on the Bay!! Bird of the day honors have to go to

the razorbills we encountered in mid-Bay near Island 4, which swam surprisingly close to the boat and did not act camera-shy in the least. Second prize might go to the male harlequin duck that swam near the dock as we prepared to board for the trip. Then there were the long-tailed ducks, all three scoter species, great cormorants, mergansers, grebes, an osprey—I could go on and on. Marine mammal of the day honors go to the performing harbor seals on Island 3. The trip showed that many sharp eyes, some talented nature photographers, and Dan Cristol as a trip leader can combine for a very enjoyable and memorable day!

Although the weather continues to seesaw between short mild and frigid spells, clearly the birds are on the move. Flocks of robins, cedar waxwings, red-winged blackbirds and others—even eastern bluebirds—are visibly and audibly moving northwards to populate their nesting territories. Some birds which did not seem to have much to sing about through the winter are blowing the rust out of their windpipes and tuning up. My backyard eastern towhee, after a few days of timidly calling “tow-eee”, has now burst into a full-fledged rendition of “drink your teeeea!!!” Can spring be far behind?

In late February I made a day trip to Chincoteague with a couple of birder friends in hopes of seeing some of the wintering birds before their seasonal migrations took them northward. We had a good day, although Chincoteague was quiet with relatively low numbers. Swans, ducks, oystercatchers, shorebirds—usual Chincoteague. A lot seem to have been suckered into heading north already, perhaps not having checked the long range forecast for the rest of the week!!

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March Meeting



The March meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday the 19th. Fletcher Smith, Research Biologist with the Center for Conservation Biology, will present a program on the trapping of Saw-whet Owls on the Eastern Shore. The Cen-

ter for Conservation Biology has been studying Saw-whet Owls since the mid-1990s, and before they started trapping there were scant records of the bird on the Eastern Shore. They operated the tapping operation for 19 years, ending in the fall of 2012. Fletcher served as the owl bander on this project for three years, then supervised the project for 9 years. His research has taken him from the high arctic of Canada to the Caribbean, Central and South America. He has studied birds ranging in size from the Bee Hummingbird (the smallest bird in the world) to Bald and Golden Eagles, and most birds in between.

Refreshments will be provided by Mona Overturf.

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

March Field Trip

Our March 15 field trip will be to Chippokes Plantation State Park in Surry. We hope to catch some Horned Larks or American Pipits before they leave our area, and if we're



lucky, some of the Osprey will have returned to their nests along the James River. Expect a moderate amount of walking through some of the park's wooded areas and around the open fields. The ferry trip back and forth should also afford us some good gull practice (ugh) and hopefully nice views of Bald Eagles and Osprey on the markers. (Chippokes State Park has an entrance fee of \$5).

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Historian **Open**

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.

For those wishing to carpool, we will depart Colony Square Shopping Center (just South of the intersection of Rt. 199 and Jamestown Road) at 7:30 AM, rain or shine, in time to catch the 7:45 AM ferry. We plan to start birding at Chippokes around 8:45 AM, with the goal of being back to the Scotland dock in time to catch the 11:30 AM ferry back to Jamestown. If you wish to drive on your own, then please meet us in the parking lot by the park visitor center at the end of Chippokes Park Road between 8:30 and 8:45 AM. This trip has no space limitations and there is no need to sign up. Just come join us for what should be a great morning of birding. We hope to see you there! Last but not least, thanks to our members and friends for joining us, early and late, by fair weather and foul, in enjoying our birds and nature, and improving their habitat where we can. I wish all a very happy and healthy New Year ahead!! May a snowy owl spot the squirrels under your feeder and come to your yard!!!

Welcome to New Members

Ronald & Claudia Monroe, Marcia Bignall, Nancy Greer Pledger, Nick Newberry and Trevor Sleight

Donation from Wild Birds Unlimited



Photo by Shirley Devan

The Williamsburg Bird Club recently received a check for \$465 from Wild Birds Unlimited at Monticello Marketplace here in Williamsburg! This generous donation from George and Val Copping, owners of WBU, represents a 5% rebate to the Club for all purchases by our members for a 6-month period. George and Val have supported our Bird Club since they opened their first store in 1990. When you purchase items at WBU, please be sure to let the staff know you are a member of the Williamsburg Bird Club.

Many thanks to George and Val for their continued support of our Bird Club and the birds of Williamsburg! They make possible several of our scholarships each year. We appreciate all you do for our Club!

Reported Sightings For February

Report your backyard birds and local sightings to Fred Blystone at 229-4346 or fredblystone@gmail.com or Shirley Devan at 813-1322 or sedevan52@cox.net. If you encounter interesting birds on your vacation/travels, please share!

February—All Month. Jeanette Navia is still being visited by her Orange-crowned Warbler.

February 1. From Gus Hall: "At Rudee Inlet a few scoters in very close, including a very fine male white wing and one very fine male surf scoter that I like to call by its old name "Skunkhead Coot."

February 2. A busy day for species that are not common in our area. Bill Williams had a Cackling Goose and 7 Horned Larks at Drummond's Field/Mainland Farm. Brian Taber, Hugh Beard and Bill Williams reported a White-winged Scoter at Jamestown Island. Hugh Beard had 1 Long-tailed Duck, 1 Common Merganser and 1 Red-necked Grebe at Little Creek Reservoir. Virginia & George Boyles, Richard Hudgins and Rock Moeslein joined leader Jane Frigo and other birders for the HRBC's walk in Newport News Park. Sixty-four species were identified, including 20 Redheads and a flock of American Pipits.

February 3 Andrew Hawkins came across a Sora on Jamestown Island. From Shirley Devan "A couple of hours at WISC turned up only the usual suspects and not many of those. I encountered the good birds as I was driving south on Centerville Road. By the BP gas/grocery market I saw 12 Wild Turkeys feeding at the back of the field next to the market. Also, two Red-shouldered Hawks flying around the field—one was down in the field with a prey item."

February 4. Shirley Devan finds a female Common Merganser at the pond behind Waters Edge at Powhatan Settlement.

February 6. Bill Williams and Shirley Devan report seeing a Long-tailed Duck near Jamestown Island. From Dan Cristol: "The William & Mary Ornithology class headed to Island #1 of the CBBT this morning and by dawn the wind was 40 mph straight of the north. Ducks were huddling close in to the eastern side of the island—all three scoters, both scaup, common goldeneye, red-breasted mergansers, long-tailed, ruddy and buffleheads, about 500 ducks in all. Gannets were continuously heading out of the bay towards better feeding. The waves made searching for loons, alcids and grebes futile, but two Red-necked Grebes flew by headed north. Five purple sandpipers were seen but Great Cormorant was missed. Conditions were eye-wateringly brutal. Next stop was 28th Bay Street in Norfolk, where the three Common Black-headed Gulls were together on the beach, with 50 Bonaparte's Gulls feeding actively in the wind nearby. Rudee Inlet produced the young male King Eider, a flyby Peregrine Falcon, and 5 Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the public parking area displaying all possible winter plumages. A Red-necked Grebe was in the water near the eider, along with the usual smattering of ducks. One Ring-billed Gull there was double banded and bore a numbered red patagial tag that will be reported to the researchers. The class trip list is up to 92 species for the semester."

February 7. Shirley Devan spent several hours at Newport News Park, ending up with 45 species, including 1 male

Northern Pintail, 1 male Canvasback, 1 female Common Merganser and around 40 Redheads.

February 8. While at the College Creek Hawkwatch site, Brian Tabers saw a Cackling Goose swimming with some Canada Geese about 75 meters off shore.

February 9. Rosemarie and George Harris went birding in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. Highlights of the day were 1 Harlequin Duck, 1 Black-headed Gull, 2 Red-necked Grebes, 3 Common Mergansers, 8 White Ibis, 1 Glaucous Gull and a King Eider.

February 16. Richard Hudgins joined leader Jane Frigo and other birders for HRBC's walk in Newport News Park. There were 58 species identified during the morning including 1 Northern Pintail, 1 Canvasback, 3 Bald Eagles and 1 Great Horned Owl.

February 23. Brian Taber reports seeing several Tree Swallows migrate across the James River at the College Creek Hawkwatch site. From Shirley Devan: "This evening between 6:20 and 6:40 I heard about 6 American Woodcock calling over at Warhill Sports Complex. They were in the large field across from the ball fields on the left as you drive into the complex. I did not see any birds flying up but the calls were distinctive. Not sure exactly how many were there—I estimated 6 because I could hear several as I walked the length of the sidewalk along the edge of the field." Shirley also reports that during the morning she found a Winter Wren near Black Point on Jamestown Island and she saw an Osprey as she was leaving the island.

February 25. From Mary Anne Fennell "We have 2 red shouldered hawks nesting in the back yard again. They raised 2 cute babies last year. They seem to be building a nest in 2 trees, guess the female can't decide. We also have an injured black vulture who can't fly but walks around the yard. He hops up on the deck and sits in my flower pot starring at me through the glass doors. Creepy!"

The Virginia Living Museum's Birding Cup – April 11-12, 2014

The annual Birding Cup event encourages people to go outdoors, breathe in fresh air, walk, look and listen—throughout the Peninsula's wild and not so wild areas for as many different species of birds as possible within a 24-hour period.

When: April 11, 6:30 PM—April 12, 6:30 PM. Registration deadline: March 24 at 4:30 PM. (Late registrations with no T-shirt accepted through April 10 at 4:30 PM).

Categories: The Birding Cup or the Hawkeye Award. The Hawkeye award is for teams where the majority of birders have less than two years of birding experience.

How: Form a team of three to five people and choose your team name, team category and contribution goal. All contributions are tax deductible. Individuals that raise at least \$50 are eligible for raffled prizes. Prizes will be given to the teams that count the most species within their category and the teams with the highest amount of contributions. Register by March 24 to receive a free custom designed T-shirt. All registered participants can enjoy a light buffet and awards presentation at the Museum at the event's conclusion.



Last year Jeanette Navia, Shirley Devan and Jan Lockwood participated in the VLM's Birding Cup as the Wren Wrustlers' team.

Where: Teams may count in any or all of the following six areas: Newport News, York County, Hampton, Poquoson, Williamsburg and James City County.

Registration: <http://www.thevlm.org/Birding-Cup-Registration.aspx> VSO field trip to the Outer Banks on February 7-9, 2014

President's Corner *(continued)*

Our fun began, though, on the way there, before Island One of the Bridge Tunnel. East of the bridge we saw a large area of white water about 100 feet across, which as we neared it turned out to be an intense area of explosive splashes from constant impacts of gannets crashing one after the other into the water, apparently feeding on a large school of menhaden. When things quieted down, with a great flock of gannets sitting quietly on the water on the spot where they had been diving, the whole show began again several hundred yards away. The gannets seemed to have found another school of fish and soon masses of the large birds climbed, wheeled, sighted, dove steeply and pounded their targets mercilessly, with the dense pattern of large splashes making an extensive area of the white divebombers hitting the water. Made me think of "Tora, Tora, Tora"—a kamikaze frenzy!

On the way to Chincoteague we hit Willis Wharf, where we found an amazing gaggle of shorebirds grazing on mudflats

on a very low tide, including over 300 marbled godwits, many willets, dowitchers, and peeps. Before arriving there we passed a field of winter wheat and Andy Hawkins spotted masses of snow geese. We stopped and watched the field's white covering of 3,000 or so snow geese lift off in repeated rippling white sheets of shimmering wings seeming to hang suspended in masses as dense as swarms of gnats as the waves of the flock lifted, shifted and slowly moved away from us. It looked like suspended animation and a flock without end. Awesome.

Our finale was coming to a field on the way home covered in white. Thinking it was snow geese we stopped to look and were disappointed to see that it was just a huge dense flock of gulls. At that point a peregrine falcon shot over our heads in their direction and the massive flock lifted off. We were then treated to an amazing air show, as the peregrine veered among stragglers, repeatedly swooping on individual gulls, making hairpin pirouette turns to match and counter their evasive desperation maneuvers and then swooping repeatedly at his next target. He moved so fast it looked like the panicked gulls were standing still in flight. He singled out and harried individual gulls but did not pursue to a final kill. This was an unforgettable sight. His aerial maneuvering put the red baron to shame. Mitchell Byrd, who knows his peregrines, suspects this agile falcon might have been zooming the gulls as much for amusement as gunning for a potential meal.

All of the above is a reminder of how fortunate we are in Williamsburg to have so many exceptional birding opportunities in easy reach for a day trip. The spring movement of birds coming to our area and passing through for nesting areas farther north is just getting underway. Hope you will have the chance to get out and enjoy it—including some of the great field trips we have planned!!

38 years and counting: Mitchell Byrd and the Annual Bald Eagle survey

By Bryan Watts, Center for Conservation Biology

When Mitchell Byrd took over the annual bald eagle survey for the state of Virginia, disco was king, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was just over 800 and France still employed the guillotine to carry out capital punishment. Dr. Byrd is now 85 ½ and the Bee Gees have long since gone the way of the leisure suit, but through all of the intervening years his commitment to bald eagles has never diminished. With the beginning of the 2014 flights in early March, Byrd will mark the 38th year of his involvement in the aerial survey.

The annual bald eagle assessment involves two rounds of flights. The survey round begins in early March and

involves the systematic flying of all tributaries to check nests known from previous years and to map new nests constructed since the last breeding season. The productivity round is conducted in late April and involves flying to each nest and counting the number of chicks produced. This two-pronged survey monitors the number of breeding pairs, their distribution, and their breeding success.

Armed with a stack of topographic maps for plotting nests, a stack of datasheets for recording survey information, and a supply of number 2 pencils, Dr. Byrd sits in the front of the plane ready for eight hours of banks, dives, and pulling G's. Gone are the lazy flying days when nests were rare and a day's flying could be recorded on a single sheet. The tremendous population recovery has made for intense flying where 100 nests may be checked before breaking for lunch.

There are no complaints about the increased workload. Still fresh are the memories of long, heart-breaking flights without finding a single nest. For the first two years of the survey there were no eagle pairs remaining along the entire James River. The 2013 survey along this historic drainage documented 205 pairs that produced 267 young. It has been a great 38 years.

VSO field trip to the Outer Banks on February 7-9, 2014

By Cheryl J. Jacobson

The VSO field trip to the Outer Banks on February 7-9, 2014 was a resounding success! With 80 birders converging on the area for three days, we were able to find 147 species, one of which was a beautiful Snow Bunting. This was a life bird for both of us. Field trips were led by Lee Adams, Bill Akers, Jerry Via, Lee Bell and Bob Ake.



Snow Bunting

Photo from Birdwatch

A few highlights: At Lake Mattamuskeet we found 4 wren species (Carolina, Winter, Marsh and Sedge), 8 species of sparrow, large numbers of Wood Ducks and thousands of Green-winged Teal. Another treat was 4 Harlequin Ducks just south of Bonner Bridge. Birding was also done at Pea Island and Bodie Island, where the Tundra Swans were spectacular.

At Alligator River NWR we were surprised to find 2 Short-eared Owls flying over the fields before 10:00 AM. One landed in an open field and stayed there for 30 minutes, giving everyone the chance to view it through scopes. We also had 3 American Bittern that gave us lengthy views.

Rusty Blackbird Blitz

By Robert Ake

The Rusty Blackbird Blitz officially began in Virginia on March 1. Participating in the Blitz is straightforward—anyone who feels confident in their Rusty Blackbird ID skills can go out, look for Rusties anywhere in Virginia they like, and report their sightings (or lack thereof) to eBird through their Submit Observations, using the special Observation Type listed under Other “Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz” in the drop-down menu.

However, for birders who'd like a bit more guidance, or for anyone who is willing to collect additional information that will be highly valuable to the effort, an optional Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz protocol document has been developed. This document details how to record and report field observations and indicates the “extras” that birders can do to help our effort (take photos, record information about local habitat, etc). This document, along with much other valuable information, is available through the Rusty Blackbird website (<http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/>) on the Collecting and Reporting Data page. Take a look and see if you'd like to add some of those extras.

College Creek Hawkwatch

By Brian Taber

The 18th consecutive season of the College Creek Hawkwatch has begun. Bill Williams manned the site on the first day, Feb 10th, on marginal flight conditions, and the first migrants were recorded today, following 3 days of wind, rain and snow when the count was not conducted. Today, 4 Turkey Vultures, a Black Vulture and 3 Bald Eagles crossed the river, along with a few crows that did not vocalize.

This is the only regular late winter/spring hawkwatch in VA. It's sponsored by Coastal VA Wildlife Observatory and run by volunteers. Data is sent to the Hawkcount.org site operated by the Hawk Migration Association of North America. The site is on the Colonial Parkway, on the James

River about 3 miles east of Williamsburg and operates daily, weather permitting, from about 9–1, as the migration there has proven to be usually a morning event as the air warms.

February Walks and Field Trips

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



Black Scoter

Photo by Ken Lipshy

The CBBT security escort was gracious and accommodating as always, taking us to Islands 2, 3 and 4 in turn. On arrival at island 2 we were greeted by a large flock of mixed scoters (surf and black) and greater scaup, with a few buffleheads in the mix. On the island itself there was a large contingent of resident gulls, some mooching ruddy turnstones, one lone pelican, and a number of purple sandpipers foraging and then sunning lazily on the rocks. Also on the rocks was a harbor seal, whose curiosity got the better of him. As we persisted in peering at the long-tailed ducks and scoters of the south end of the island, the seal hoisted himself out on a rock and looked inquisitively at us as if to ask what all the interest was about.

While some of us sifted through a very large flock of ducks on the west side of the island, among which were goldeneyes, scaups, ruddies, buffleheads and all three scoters (surf, black and white-winged), gannets began patrolling over the bay. Notable was the proximity of several swimming white-winged scoters in easy photo range, which



Harbor Seal

Photo by Inge Curtis



Long-tailed Duck

Photo by Inge Curtis

March 2014

CBBT islands by car on 1 February 2014

By Geoff Giles

The weather man got this one right! It was a gorgeous day, with sunshine and mild breezes. The ducks and seabirds seemed to enjoy it as much as the birders and turned out in good numbers and good variety—including some that were not supposed to be there! Mixed in with many year birds for our thirty birders were life birds for many of us. Heading the list of those was an eared grebe which Dan Cristol spotted for us on island 2, just beyond a mixed flock of scoters. It swam and dove among two horned grebes—giving us a nice object lesson in how to tell them apart. Not to be outdone, a red-necked grebe made an appearance later, affording us an opportunity to see what distinguishes that bird from the other grebes as well!

Several great cormorants, among the more prevalent double-crested cormorants, did near fly-bys, and a lesser black-backed gull was spotted among the greater black-backed gulls on rocks and railings. At varying distances from the island, common loons went about their fishing forays, oblivious to our attention. Flocks of scoters and long-tailed ducks flew by and occasionally splashed down within easy spotting and photo range. Great winter birding!!

When we moved on to Island 3 much more of the same awaited us, with a few other surprises thrown in. The first to greet us was a pair of redheads among scaups and scoters near the north end of the island. Don't expect to see redheads around CBBT!! As we puzzled over those and watched a couple of harbor seals doing acrobatic leaps and splashes (obviously thinking we were there for them to do auditions for the Nature Channel!) a commotion arose among the early birders who checked the west side of the island. On the rocks among the gulls perched a glaucous gull, which afforded photo ops perched and then in flight, before moving on. It was about that time that we had good looks at the red-necked grebe, fishing just off the rocks. Near the distant Island 4, Bill Williams spotted first one, then several razorbills. At first hard to spot because of their frequent dives, several eventually afforded us views of these distinctive black and white offshore birds that are rarely this far up the Bay!!

Moving on to Island 4 we saw more long-tailed ducks, scoters, loons and red-breasted mergansers. Gannet forays were increasing as the beautiful day wore on. We were surprised not to see the razorbills which had been visible in the distance diving near this island until finally at about five hundred yards distance, a flock of what at first appeared to be just one more flock of active ducks turned out to be a fairly sizable flock entirely of razorbills! They were very actively circling and diving in a localized area which could only have been a school of fish on which they were happily feeding. Our best count was thirty-one razorbills. Not bad for a bird that is rarely viewed at our bridge tunnel! After a full morning of bay ducks and sea birds our group split into two directions. One group with less time, visited Island 1 on the return route home, while another group went on to have lunch and bird on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.



American Woodcock

Photo by Inge Curtis

The latter group was treated to the rare sight of numbers of normally elusive woodcocks, walking along the edges of snow-covered frozen fields at the sides of the country roads. The woodcocks had been unable to find food, which they normally do by probing the soil for insects with their long bills. After a few days of not being able to penetrate the frozen ground, they were intently foraging in the few bare patches, often just feet away from our cars. Some stayed motionless, using their defensive tactic of trying to blend into their surroundings. Others were so hungry that they tuned us out, threw caution to the winds and went on about foraging while we admired and photographed them at

point blank range. Their muted colors made them virtually disappear even from a very short distance anytime they were in or near leaf litter. Amazing! Inge Curtis was able to get one to smile for her camera. These close-up encounters with a rarely seen bird were a perfect ending to an absolutely extraordinary day!!!

Bird Walk on February 8th at NQP

From Shirley Devan: "Greetings, After a slow start Saturday morning, our group of 19 tallied 33 species at our regular 2nd Saturday Bird Walk at New Quarter Park.

Our leader, Hugh Beard, helped us find and ID the birds. The birds of the day were the 157 Canvasbacks observed (and counted through two scopes) in Queen's Creek from the overlook at the Fire Pit. Several Greater Scaup were hanging out with the Canvasbacks. Just about everyone got good looks through the scopes.

You can tell it was a chilly morning from the multiple layers and diverse head gear in the group photo."



Front Row: Ned Rose, Jacob Hinton, Becky Rose, Joyce Lowry, Betty Peterson, Shirley Devan, Susan Wolfe, Cortney Langley, Caitlin Verdu, Sandy Robertson. Back Row: Tom McCary, Hugh Beard, Travis Will, Geoff Giles, Steve Pope, Judy Jones, Helen Casey-Rutland, Rachel Lockwood, Amy Lockwood

Photo by Shirley Devan



Seated left to right: Shirley Devan, Bill Bay, Linda Cole, Jan Lockwood, Joyce Lowry, Kathy Staley, Howard Staley.

Standing: Mike Lowry, Ernie Miller, Andy Hawkins, Geoff Giles, Betty Peterson, Jim Corliss, Tony Penza. Photo by Shirley Devan

Bird Walk on February 22nd at NQP

From Shirley Devan: “Fourteen people turned out for the Bird Club’s 7 am Bird Walk at New Quarter Park this morning.

Several visitors joined us—Ernie Miller, Mike Lowry, and Bill Bay from the Hampton Roads Bird Club plus Howard and Kathy Staley from Cincinnati, Ohio who were visiting relatives in the area. Tony Penza, who lives locally, also joined us.

The group, led by Jim Corliss, recorded 40 species. The tide was low and getting lower as we arrived at the floating dock. We immediately spotted two Killdeer on the mud flat down by

the entrance to the creek. Some folks observed a raccoon—others not so sure about that raccoon!

An adult Bald Eagle perched in a tree top behind the floating dock and most got good looks through the scopes. Otherwise an abundance of American Robins plus Ruddy Ducks, Green-winged Teal, and Lesser Scaup on Queens Creek.

Photos from Members



Carolina Wren photographed in Colonial Williamsburg by Fred Blystone



Lucille Kossodo was lucky enough to be home when this Baltimore Oriole visited her feeder on February 25th.



Craig Hill photographed this Florida Scrub-Jay on February 20th at Oscar Scherer State Park in Venice, Florida.



Fred Blystone took this photo of a Northern Mockingbird in Colonial Williamsburg.



This Cooper's Hawk paid a visit to Barry and Lynn Trott's yard on February 17th.



From Judy Jones: "This fascinating robin was found in New Quarter Park on Monday, February 3rd. He was surrounded by about 50 other normally-colored robins and seemed pretty confident that he was just as beautiful as they were. I would have to agree."



This Burrowing Owl was photographed on February 21st near the library in Cape Coral, Florida by Craig Hill.



Andy Hawkins photographed this Bonaparte's Gull and Black-headed Gull near Little Creek Inlet in Norfolk.



Sara Lewis provided this photo of the group that went to Beaverdam Park on February 15.
Back row: Mike Minarik, Jim Corliss, Andy Hawkins, Geoff Giles
Front row: Alex Minarik, Judy Jones, Cheryl Jacobson, Shirley Devan, Sara Lewis

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 March

February's photo was of a Black Skimmer.



CALENDAR

Saturday, March 8	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM. Tom McCary, Leader
Saturday, March 15	WBC Field Trip to Chippokes State Park. See Front Page
Sunday, March 16	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM. Jane Frigo, Leader
Wednesday, March 19	WBC Monthly Meeting, See Front Page
Saturday, March 22	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM. Bill Williams, Leader
April 24–27	VSO Annual Meeting. For more information— www.virginiabirds.net
Sunday, May 4	WBC Spring Bird Count. More information to follow