



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 38, No. 5

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

May 2014

### President's Corner

By Geoff Giles



What a difference a couple of weeks make!! A look outside is bathed in tender green everywhere, and a listen is enriched with the songs of birds that have been quiet or absent for the seasons just past. Buds and first blossoms are everywhere and a closer look shows that

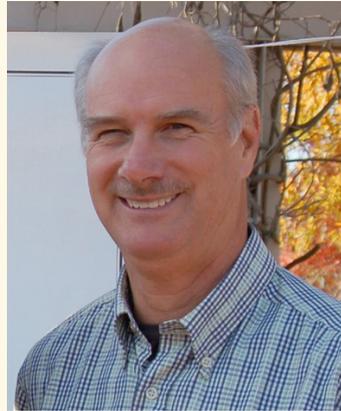
dormant insect species have gotten the signal that it's time to hatch, eat and be eaten! In short, the table is set for the abundance of bird species that will settle in or pass through our region for the spring and summer nesting season.

The winter visitor species, including yellow-bellied sapsuckers, white-throated sparrows and yellow-rumped or myrtle warblers (notice that I didn't call them "butterbutts") are slowly fading away like Alice in Wonderland's Cheshire cat, and soon the grin won't even be there—until they come south again next fall. No matter, their replacements are already swarming in. Legions of chipping sparrows have moved in, along with the first tanagers, vireos, grosbeaks, buntings, flycatchers, gnatcatchers and—oh yes, warblers!

Yup. It's time to get out those dusty "Birding by Ear" discs or tapes again, and tune our ears for the often elusive and spectacular small birds that will pour through our area on their way farther north or to higher elevations than the coastal plain to find their preferred nesting territories. Since they tend to spend their time here foraging in the densest, highest foliage, or the most impenetrable understory, the first clue to their presence and identity is their song. When we're lucky, we can follow the song to the singer, and be rewarded with a breathtaking view, sometimes only momentary, of these spectacularly attired creatures. And with luck and practice, we can see them without succumbing to the embarrassing malady of having our heads stuck in the "up and locked" position, known as "warbler neck"—which can result from peering through binoculars too long and hard into the canopy leaves looking for the elusive warblers!

*(continued on page 4)*

### May Meeting



The May meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday the 21st. Our very own Bill Williams will present a program titled *Warblers of the Colonial Historic Triangle*. His note to me said "one of the many delights of spring migration is seeing as many of the thirty-eight warbler species recorded in the Colo-

nial Historic Triangle as possible. At our May meeting we will use our eyes and ears to learn about how to identify and find these colorful, often elusive birds."

The Wren Rustlers (Shirley Devan, Jan Lockwood, Jeanette Navia and Susan Powell) won the prize for the most money raised for the Va. Living Museum's Birding Cup. Refreshments will be provided by Jennifer Boag and Jeanne Millin. The pair of Eagle Optis Denali 8 x 42 will be raffled off (2 tickets for \$5) at the May 21 Club meeting. The money raised will be used to support our scholarships.

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



Can you ID this bird—taken by Bill Williams on April 21.

### May Field Trip

Our next Williamsburg Bird Club field trip will be on May 10th to the Shirley Plantation in Charles City County. Please note that this trip will be on the 2nd



Saturday of the month, not our usual 3rd Saturday for field

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## 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.

trips. This was the only day that we could arrange around other events at the plantation.

Shirley Plantation is a beautiful property alongside the James River with varied habitats, including the river, woodlands, open fields and impoundments. Our trip leader will be Tom McCary, who is very familiar with the property. Randy Carter, one of the plantation owners, will also serve as a guide. We hope to find warblers, shorebirds, raptors and possibly some lingering waterfowl. Our plan is to leave the Colony Square shopping center at 7:30 AM on Saturday, May 10th in order to arrive at the plantation entrance around 8:30 AM. For those wishing to drive on their own, please meet us at the Shirley Plantation entrance gate at 8:30 AM. From the John Tyler Highway (Rt. 5), take either of the two entrance roads to Shirley Plantation and travel roughly one mile to arrive at the gate, which you will find just prior to reaching the main plantation house.

There is no need to sign up for this trip, but as on our previous visits to the plantation, the owners are asking us to make a contribution to the estate. This year the cost will be \$7.50 per person. You can pay on the morning of the trip with either cash or a check made out to Shirley Plantation (no credit cards please).

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me (Jim Corliss at 565-0536 or [jcorliss240@cox.net](mailto:jcorliss240@cox.net)). Hope to see you May 10th!

## Reported Sightings For April

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

**April 1st & 2nd.** Dan Cristol reports that the William and Mary Ornithology class found (on the campus) 4 Yellow-throated Warblers on the 1st and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, a Louisiana Waterthrush and 2 Chimney Swifts on the 2nd.

**April 3.** George & Rosemarie Harris saw a Eared Grebe at Yorktown Beach and then went to the north entrance of Beaverdam Park in Gloucester County, where they had 3 Yellow-throated Warblers, a Louisiana Waterthrush, 2 Palm Warblers, 3 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and a number of Yellow-rumped Warblers. At the College Creek Hawkwatch, Brian Taber saw 3 White Ibis. At Craney Island, Bill Williams, Ruth Beck, Virginia & George Boyles and Alex Minarik found 82 species, including 2 Eurasian Wigeon, 178 Northern Shovelers, 11 Western Sandpipers, and 1 Caspian Tern.

**April 4-6.** From Chris Monahan: "We drove down to Cape Canaveral/Orlando area overnight Thursday and back overnight on Sunday, so it was quite the trip! Although it wasn't a birding trip, I managed to see 48 species, including 8 life-birds. The birding highlights were the southern specialities, such as (Northern) Crested Caracara, Painted Bunting and Florida Scrub-Jay, but the stand-out sighting of the weekend was definitely the manatees near Cape Canaveral!"

**April 6.** Shirley Devan finds a female Common Merganser at the pond behind Waters Edge at Powhatan Settlement.

**April 7.** Virginia & George Boyles, Marilyn & John Adair, Sandy Robertson, Richard Hudgins and Geoff Giles joined leader Jane Frigo and other birders for the HRBC walk in Newport News Park. Sixty-four species were noted, including FOS birds Green Heron, Chimney Swift, Barn Swallow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Palm Warbler and a Yellow-throated Warbler.

**April 8.** Bill Williams and Brian Taber have a Peregrine Falcon at the College Creek Hawkwatch.

**April 9.** While birding at Mainland Farms, Shirley Devan found 2 Glossy Ibis. Alex and Mike Minarik saw a Prothonotary Warbler in Longhill Swamp and a Louisiana Waterthrush at a nearby creek. Andy Hawkins and Geoff Giles joined Bob Ake and other birders for a walk along the Railroad Ditch in the Great Dismal Swamp. A total of 51 species of birders were found, including ten species of warblers; Ovenbird, Black-and-White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Northern Parula, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Prairie Warbler.

**April 10.** Bill Williams reports 12 Redhead at College Creek.

**April 13.** From Gary and Ann Carpenter: “we visited York River State Park on April 12 (absolutely gorgeous day for birding). In the area around the Visitors Center and at the fishing pier we spotted Ruddy Ducks (in the hundreds) on the York River, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Double Crested Cormorant, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Crows, Turkey and Black Vultures, Carolina Chickadee, Chipping Sparrows and Eastern Bluebirds. On the Taskinsas Trail we saw Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Carolina Wren, Red-winged Blackbird, Tufted Titmouse, White-eyed Vireo, Red-tailed Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Piliated Woodpecker, Black and White Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Ovenbird, and Wood Thrush.

**April 16.** Alex Minarik reports her FOS Ruby-throated Hummingbird at her feeder.

**April 17.** Ruth Beck, Virginia & George Boyles, Alex Minarik, Mark Smithson, Brian Taber, Dave Youker, and Bill Williams do the bird survey at Craney Island. There are 69 species identified, including 21 American Avocets, 1 Marsh Wren and 4 Boat-tailed Grackles.

**April 20.** Marilyn & John Adair, Sandy Robertson and Richard Hudgins join leader Jane Frigo and other birders for the HRBC bird walk in Newport News Park. Sixty species were identified, including a Prothonotary Warbler, 3 Common Goldeneye and a Yellow-throated Vireo.

**April 22.** Bill Williams and Brian Taber report seeing a Tri-colored Heron at College Creek.

**April 25.** Bill Williams and Brian Taber have a migrating Peregrine Falcon pass over the College Creek Hawkwatch. Fred Blystone spots a Cattle Egret near Gospel Spreading Farm.



**April 26.** Mike and Alex Minarik discovered a Wood Duck nesting in the nest box behind their property.

**April 27.** Alex Minarik reports FOS Prairie Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee and Orchard Oriole at Jamestown Island. Also saw an adult and a young Great-horned Owl.

**April 28.** Mary Anne & John Fennell have a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at their feeder for the whole afternoon. They also report having a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks nesting in their back yard for the 2nd year.

**April 29.** While birding at the Drummond's Field/Mainland Farm area, Bill Williams finds 2 Black-bellied Plover, 3 Semipalmated Plover and 1 Short-billed Dowitcher. At the Greensprings Nature Trail he spots a Cliff Swallow.

### **Williamsburg Bird Club's Annual Picnic**

**From Jan Lockwood and Ruth Gordon**

The annual Bird Club Picnic is Sunday, June 1, at 4 PM. Ruth and Sherwin Beck will graciously open their Barhamsville home and garden to Bird Club members and their families. Ruth is the Founding Mother of the Bird Club and it is a spring tradition to enjoy a picnic at their beautiful lakeside home in New Kent County. Thank you, Ruth and Sherwin. **Contact Ruth Gordon by Wednesday, May 28 to let her know you are coming** —[ruthkagordon@gmail.com](mailto:ruthkagordon@gmail.com) or phone 757-208-0757. Please tell her how many will be in your party and what dish you might contribute to the festivities—appetizer, main dish, salad, side dish, or dessert? Please plan for about 10 servings. We hope to see you there. We always have a great time visiting with one another and enjoying the wonderful birds and wildlife around the Beck's property.

**Directions to the Beck's house:** Take I-64 west towards Richmond to exit #227 (West Point/Toano). Turn right onto Route 30 North going towards West Point. Follow Route 30 about 2.5 miles to Barhamsville. The center of Barhamsville extends along the road for less than a mile. Look for the Post Office on your right. Then turn look for a secondary paved road, Route 273 N, and turn right. Follow Route 273 N for

1.6 miles. Look for a large sign on the right that says “Hickory Springs, Leyland Tree Farm.” Turn right onto the gravel/dirt road at the Tree Farm sign. Stay on this road for about ½ mile. This gravel lane goes into the Beck’s driveway. Go through an open red gate (with house # 19231) and continue to the parking area in front of the house. In case you have a problem, the Beck’s phone number is 566-8234; Ruth’s cell phone number is 757-870-0318.

### **President’s Corner**

(continued)

But the pain in the neck is rewarded from time to time with a breathtaking glimpse of an ephemeral jewel. These birds, and views of them, are fleeting because many are just here long enough to stuff themselves with enough reserves to continue their migratory journey elsewhere. It is also the precious fleeting moment to find and view them in their finery, because they tend to vocalize (as they are supposed to on your recording) when they are on their nesting territory, or practicing their tune in migration because they soon will be. In other words, even if they are still here post-nesting they will no longer be singing the tune which can help you to find and identify them. Dang. Also, many of the species which have nested farther north will pass back through in the fall, but with little vocalization and having molted into more cryptic coloration, as many will be immature birds, and even the adults will no longer wear their spectacular breeding finery. What is a dazzling forest jewel today will look like one more LBJ (technical term meaning a small non-descript bird, or little brown job)!

So what is it about our area that makes it a mecca for migrating songbirds? As is often the case in nature, it’s mostly about the food! It’s those southern, home-cooked native insect species!! When the tender first sprouts are out on the spring greenery, masses of insects are coming to life and offering just what the migrants need to find ample nourishment for their long and arduous migratory journeys and for the demanding task of nesting when they reach their breeding territories. This is also what our locally-nesting species need to feed their nestlings so that they can grow strong enough quickly to survive in nature.

We are fortunate that much of the Williamsburg area is still covered in native tree and plant species that support a healthy food web. It is the native species, which the insects the birds depend on and have evolved to use, so native plants and trees are critical to supporting the aspects of nature we all enjoy. As a small example of this, two days ago a beautiful male rose-breasted grosbeak spent a day foraging in the foliage of a red maple tree at the far end of my yard. I enjoyed beautiful

glimpses of this spectacular bird, a new one for my yard list. As I write, I see that two spectacular males of this species have come to my feeder to crack seeds (and be photographed!). Wow!! Had they not found the lepidopteran (moth and butterfly) larvae they did on my native trees I have no doubt that they would have gone elsewhere and I would not have had this unforgettable pleasure.

So now is the time to enjoy the warblers and other migrants. We will have some expert coaching on how to do that from Bill Williams at our 21 May meeting. He will give much needed coaching on warbler identification. Bill has been birding our area (and many others!) for forty years and will share an awesome depth of knowledge with us. If you are a new birder or an old vet, there is much to learn and enjoy about the warblers, so we hope you’ll join us! Non-members who are interested are also welcomed to come and share a great evening session. If you would like to see and hear some spring migrants in the meantime, I recommend our upcoming trip to Shirley Plantation on 10 May. We will be visiting some great habitat on that impressive property and it is in prime time for the spring migrants. Don’t miss them!

And if you want to take a look and a listen for those spring migrants on any day, rain or shine, in May there are excellent prospects of finding them in all of our local birding hotspots; Jamestown Island, New Quarter Park, York River State Park, Greensprings Trail, Beaverdam Park in Gloucester County, Newport News Park—the list could go on and on, and all in easy reach. I recommend going with a friend or three, since more eyes and ears greatly increase your chances of spotting that elusive songster you hear in all that lush foliage. We also continue our bi-weekly Saturday morning walks through the spring and summer and visitors are most welcome to join our club members for beautiful and often memorable mornings outdoors. Hope to see you there!!!

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

**Review by Gary Carpenter**

*A Supremely Bad Idea: Three Mad Birders and Their Quest to See It All*—by Luke Dempsey, Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, 2009

I found a battered paperback copy of this book in the library of the Casa de San Pedro in Hereford, Arizona in the fall of 2013. I began reading and was quickly hooked but, unfortunately, we were leaving the Casa the next morning and I could not take the book with me. Thankfully, I was able to find and download the book from Kindle/Amazon. It proved to be a worthwhile, entertaining, and often hilarious read.

It is the memoir of a birder, and the writer, Luke Dempsey, began his birding career, as did most of us, with a casual

interest in the birds within the surroundings of a new environment (in his case a new house he purchased in the country following a divorce). He worked in New York City and his newfound interest led to mornings of birding in Central Park when the spring migration was in full swing. His interest soon became his passion and then a complete birding obsession. The theme of the book is spelled out in the subtitle and becomes the tales of his birding searches around the country with two friends (an eccentric married couple) who were equally passionate and obsessive birders. The story then details the wonders of the places and environments they explored, the usually disreputable cars they rented, the even more disreputable motel rooms they inhabited, the characters they met along the way, and, a little less often than I would have liked, descriptions of some of their best bird finds.

I was first attracted to Dempsey's story because his opening chapters are devoted to areas that Ann and I have birded often; southwest Arizona and Florida. He goes into some detail about one of the great characters of American birding, whom we met briefly while in Arizona, a well-known guide with the wonderful name of Wezil Walraven. He also tells of trips to, among others, Michigan, Washington, and Texas. The book is replete with humorous anecdotes, weird encounters with environmentalists, birders of every description and, of course, birds. It provides an excellent look into how one becomes a birder and the great lengths some of us will go to in our attempts to find more and more of our longed for Life Listers. Just marginally, on the down side some of Dempsey's anecdotes get repetitive, his language is often unnecessarily "adult", and some of the humor seems forced. But, on the whole I recommend this book to novice and veteran birders alike. For the novice it will provide insights into the birding world and for the veteran it will provide memories of their own birding adventures and the people they met along the way.

## **VSO Annual Meeting**

**Article and Photos by Shirley Devan**

The Virginia Society of Ornithology's Annual Meeting was in Chesapeake this year. The VSO partnered with the popular Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival, April 24 – 27, 2013, to bring visitors for what turned out to be a very birdy weekend!

I arrived at the host hotel late Friday afternoon and enjoyed the evening presentation by Deloras Freeman and Chris Lowie of the Great Dismal Swamp NWR. Deloras and Chris tag teamed to present a history of the "great dismal" and describe the role of water and fire in this unique eco-

system in addition the restoration efforts for Atlantic white cedar. With so many birding expeditions to choose from, I decided to change it up a bit and signed up for the canoe paddle on the Dismal Swamp Canal. The Canal marks the eastern border of the Great Dismal Swamp NWR. This was new territory for me and I looked forward to a gentle paddle on smooth water to look and listen for birds.

The Dismal Swamp Canal (DSC) is a body of water that connects southeastern Virginia to northeastern North Carolina and today is part of the inland body of water known as the Intra-Coastal Waterway. Although originally built for commercial reasons, today the canal is primarily used by recreational boaters as a way to travel along the east coast (Maine to Florida) while avoiding the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean. The history of the DSC dates back to 1787, when the Virginia General Assembly passed the necessary legislation to build the canal. However, it took until 1805 to complete the work. ... Today, the DSC can boast of the oldest maritime locking system of its type still in use, as well as its significant contributions to America's past.

Staff from Chesapeake Parks and Recreation met us at the launch site with canoes and paddles and we were paddling south by 9:30. Before we even got in the canoes, we observed mating Chipping Sparrows next to the boat ramp! My paddling partner was Mike Lott, fellow VSO Board Member, manager of the Crow's Nest near Fredericksburg, and a skilled "birder by ear." As we moved down the canal, he quietly called out the birds he was hearing and helped me ID them. One of the most stunning birds we found was the Yellow-rumped Warbler! There were many still moving low in the vegetation and teasing us. We heard quite a few Prothonotary Warblers and some of us saw a pair mating low in the vegetation next to the water. I spotted a Red-headed Woodpecker on a dead tree and a couple of others saw it before it moved around to the backside. Not many of those around this weekend. We heard Prairie Warblers, Northern Parulas, Pine Warblers and Black-and-white Warblers. The total tally for the morning was 44 species. The beautiful canal was a treat in itself and a wonderful discovery. Bordering the canal is a multi-purpose 8.3 mile hike/bike trail which opened in 2006 and runs along a section of the old State Route 17. This is certainly a destination to revisit!

Saturday afternoon the VSO highlighted the recipients of the 2013 J. J. Murray Research Awards: Anna Tucker from VCU and Vitek Jirinec from William and Mary. Dan Albrechet-Mallinger of VCU, a recipient of a VSO Conservation Grant, also presented info about his research. Two undergraduates presented Poster Sessions – Emily Clark of Radford University

and Capwell Taylor of William and Mary. Each is doing important research on birds that call Virginia home and contributing to the body of knowledge.



Left to right: Dan Albrechet-Mallinger, VCU, Dr. Andrew Dolby, Chair of VSO Annual Meeting, Anna Tucker, VCU, and Vitek Jirinec, W&M.

Alicia King, Communication Coordinator and Urban Bird Treaty Program Coordinator with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, delivered an engaging keynote speech at the Saturday evening banquet. She described the new outreach efforts of the USFWS and the various projects the Service is working on to protect bird habitats in the nation's wildlife refuges.

The only other Williamsburg Bird Club member at the weekend meeting was Lynn Collins. We discovered we were on the same Sunday morning excursion and sat together on the "early bird" bus that left at 7 AM to take about 15 of us to Bells Mill Park in Chesapeake for the first of two birding adventures.

Bells Mill Park features footpaths through wetlands and meadows in open natural areas with elevated scenic views of the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River. This is a former landfill with an environmental cap. No bikes or motorized vehicles are allowed so this quiet site allowed us to hear quite a few birds. Dr. Dean Bohon, my co-leader for the trip, was able to call up a Clapper Rail and then we heard a couple later on our walk. Half the group walked with Dean around the meadow and tree line and half the group ventured with me along the marsh (high tide), pond, and Elizabeth River branch. We had to filter out the Red-winged Blackbirds dominating the marsh. Still the two groups observed 60 species between 7:30 and 10:30 with highlights including Yellow Warbler, Eastern Meadowlarks, Least Sandpipers (!) foraging in field with Killdeer, Savannah Sparrow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow that perched cooperatively for photos, and a Blue-

gray Gnatcatcher incubating on her nest near the end of a dead pine branch. We also spied a raccoon escaping the high tide, perched and preening in a bare tree in the marsh.



The bus then transported us to Northwest River Park in Chesapeake for a walk down the Deer

Island Trail, a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile easy ramble through the woods to the South Terminal and the shore of the Northwest River.

Before we even left the parking lot we heard and then saw a Scarlet Tanager and a Summer Tanager, which traditionally nests near the parking lot! Also a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was flitting around the red buckeye tree blooming next to the bus. We had great eyes and ears on this walk and many of us saw the Ovenbird and a Wood Thrush not far from the trail and heard several more of each. We heard Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Great Crested Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Black-and-white Warbler (seen by a few) and Northern Parula. I was particularly pleased to put my binoculars on the Northern Parula, a bird I've not actually seen in a few years. It's one of the few warbler songs I can confidently ID but the birds are usually hiding high in the canopy.

We tallied 26 species for our short stay at this wonderful Chesapeake city park. The bus returned us to our hotel by 1:30 and we all headed west and home. The weekend organizers called up the best weather and the best birds. Many thanks to Andrew Dolby, VSO's Annual Meeting Chairman, and Mike Lott, Registration Chair and great assistant with all things "meeting" and "birdy." Many birders headed home with great birding memories and some stunning photos of star birds in the Great Dismal Swamp. NOTE: Next year's VSO Annual Meeting will be at Wintergreen May 8–10. Mark your calendars now. tion there has proven to be usually a morning event as the air warms.

## Wren Wrustlers Strike Again

The Wren Wrustlers —Shirley Devan, Jan Lockwood, Jeanette Navia and Susan Powell— tallied 88 species during the VA Living Museum's Birding Cup (April 11–12). The team won the prize for collecting the most money for the museum and their prize, a pair of Eagle Optics binoculars, was donated to the Williamsburg Bird Club for a raffle at the May 21<sup>st</sup> club meeting to raise moeny for scholarships.



Ann and Gary Carpenter at the Williamsburg Bird Club's exhibit at the April 9th Flower & Garden Show sponsored by Colonial Heritage.  
Photo by Shirley Devan

## April Walks and Field Trip

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



Seated left to right: Joanne Andrews, Cathy Millar, Joyce Lowry, Chris Monahan. Standing: Tom McCary, Geoff Giles, Jim Corliss.  
Photo by Jim Corliss

### Bird Walk on April 12th at NQP

The Jim Corliss led bird walk at New Quarter Park came up with 37 species including 5 Osprey, 5 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, 2 Ovenbirds, 2 Louisiana Waterthrush and 2 Yellow-throated Warblers.

### Great Dismal Swamp Field Trip

Our April 19th field trip to the Dismal Swamp was wet, but it was still a great success. Despite the rain, fifteen intrepid birders walked the Washington Ditch with leader Bob Ake and were rewarded with 42 bird species, 11 of which were warblers! We enjoyed especially nice views of Prothonotary Warblers and Hooded Warblers, as well as a beautiful jet-black male American Redstart with its vivid orange wing and tail patches. The swamp's go-to birds, Swainson's Warblers, continuously teased us with their songs, but, true-to-form, they always managed to stay out of sight, even when they seemed to be just off the trail.

But the most enjoyable memory of the trip for me was listening to Bob Ake call in a Barred Owl. Without a doubt, Bob makes the best Barred Owl call I have ever heard. The owl was fooled as well, repeatedly calling back to Bob as it made its way through the trees, circling around us to find out who was in its territory. Thank you to Bob for enduring the weather with us, and also congratulations to Chris Monahan, who added nine birds to his life list! It was a truly memorable morning.



Write- and Photo by Jim Corliss



Photo provided by George Boyles

### **Bird Walk on April 26th at NQP**

Joanne Andrews, Bill Boeh, Virginia and George Boyles, Bruce Glendening, Rosemarie and George Harris, Steve Haynie, Jan Lockwood, Joyce Lowry, and Chandran Nair joined leader Bill Williams for the walk at New Quarter Park. A total of 48 species were identified during the morning, including 1 Common Loon, 7 Clapper Rails, 2 Black-and-White Warblers, 1 Common Yellowthroat and 1 Blackpoll Warbler



Shirley Devan took this photo of the 3 grad students who presented at the Bird Club meeting in April. They received the 2013 Bill Sheehan and Ruth Beck Ornithological Research Grants. Left to right: Vitek Jirinec, Peggy Whitney and Ghazi Mahjoub.

## Photos from Members & Friends



This Cardinal, photographed by Fred Blystone in CW, was having a bad hair day.



Shirley Devan took this photo of a Great Horned Owl and it's snack on Jamestown Island in early April.



Lois Leeth, who lives in Florida, sent in this photo of a pair of Roseate Spoonbills.



This Carolina Wren, photographed by Fred Blystone in the Brickyard at Colonial Williamsburg, has a nest in one of the poles supporting the canvas over the pits where they tread the clay.



This Great Horned Owllet was photographed on Jamestown Island by Shirley Devan.



Mark Smithson photographed this Orchard Oriole while birding in the Portsmouth area.

## 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 May

April's photo was of a  
Tricolored Heron



## CALENDAR

Saturday, May 10	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM. Jim Corliss, Leader
Saturday, May 10	WBC Field Trip to Shirley Plantation. See Front Page
Sunday, May 18	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM. Jane Frigo, Leader
Wednesday, May 21	WBC Monthly Meeting, See Front Page
Saturday, May 24	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM. Bill Williams, Leader
June 6–8	VSO Summer Trip to Front Royal. For more information— <a href="http://www.virginiabirds.net">www.virginiabirds.net</a>
Sunday June 8	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM. Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, June 14	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM.
Sunday, June 22	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM. Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, June 28	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM.