

# The Flyer

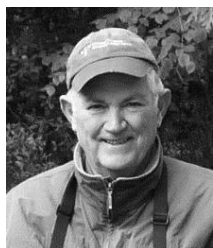
## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 40, No. 3

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

March 2016

### President's Corner



*By Geoff Giles*

As a topsy-turvy winter inexorably turns to spring, some interesting birding is at hand. While enjoying my neighborhood with my chocolate lab, Lincoln, a neighbor being towed by his

four-legged best friend asked if it is possible that a Baltimore Oriole could be visiting his feeder this time of year. He noted that he and his wife have seen this bird repeatedly and described a beautiful male of the species. He and his wife had begun a feeder station behind their home earlier this year and were initially concerned that no birds came for a time. Once the birds found their feeder, it just got better and better, as did the ID skills of the family. When I mentioned that orioles particularly seem to love oranges and grape jelly, my neighbor said that they have already been spoiling their visitor with fresh oranges. Guess I'd better get on the ball and put out some oranges at my house!

Speaking of beautiful birds, yesterday brought two beautiful ones which are additions to my life list! And even better, both were in breathtaking natural settings in the marshes of the barrier islands off Virginia's Eastern Shore, less than a two hour drive from Williamsburg. These species, rare for Virginia, were among hundreds of beautiful birds in gorgeous vistas of water and wetlands with no trace of civilization to mar the natural habitat. This day, filled with beautiful nature and birds, was courtesy of Matt Anthony's drumming together a small but enthusiastic crew and booking a "Broadwater Bay Ecotours" boat trip to the barrier islands, in a quest to find a rare Virginia bird, the long-billed curlew. Our boat captain and tour guide, Rick Kellam, is a gracious native of the Eastern Shore whose family roots in the barrier islands go back to 1634. He is a naturalist, historian, author – and a lot of fun to bird with!

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### March 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting

March's speaker will be Ashley Peele, PhD., Coordinator of Virginia's Second Breeding Bird Atlas (VABBA2). Ashley will share with us plans for this 5-year project sponsored by the VA Society of Ornithology and the VA Department of Game & Inland Fisheries. Volunteers, including birders around the state, will document the status and distribution of Virginia's breeding birds during the 2016-2020 breeding seasons. (See more information regarding this program on page 7.)

### New Meeting Time and Place

Our new meeting place is Room 1127 in the Integrative Science Center, at the College of William and Mary (to the right of Millington Hall, behind Phi Beta Kappa Hall). Note that we are now meeting earlier, at **7:00 pm**. You should still park in front of Phi Beta Kappa. **Please check the website if you need a parking pass or a map of the campus.**

### A Walk in the Forest on March 12<sup>th</sup>

*A Note from Cheryl Jacobson*

One of my favorite places is New Kent Forestry Center (located at 1131 Pocahontas Trail in Providence Forge). The Center is not open to the public so it is a great opportunity to enjoy all that it offers when they host Walk in the Forest. This year it is March 12<sup>th</sup> from 8-2. The first item on the schedule is a bird walk that begins at 8:00 and is led by Geoff Giles, Master Naturalist and Williamsburg Bird Club President. In case you want to go it alone, hiking trails open at 8 a.m. and maps will be available for self-guided hikes.

At 10:30 the following activities begin:

10:30 Free Seedlings are available.

10:30 Guided Nature Hikes start every half hour until 1:30.

10:30 Exhibits and activities open till 1:30. They include:

Leave No Trace, Wildlife Identification, Papermaking, Leaf Rubbing, Animal Track Stamping, and Painting with Pine Needles.

So, I hope to see you at New Kent Forestry Center on March 12<sup>th</sup>. And don't forget to stop by the tree table to say hi and to pick up your free tree seedling.

See you on the trail!

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## Wild Birds Unlimited and Backyard Birder support Bird Club and birders

Visit the new Wild Birds Unlimited Store in Settler's Market. The Club receives a 5% rebate on the pre-tax amount our Club members spend at WBU. Remember to let them know you are a member.

At the new Backyard Birder store at Quarterpath Crossing (near Harris Teeter), receive a 10% discount on all merchandise. Just let the kind folks there know that you're a member and you'll receive your discount. You do not need to bring in your parking pass.

## Reported Bird Sightings for February 2016

*We want to know what you're seeing in your yard and travels. Please share with Club members by sending your sightings to Judy Jones [jjones184@cox.net](mailto:jjones184@cox.net) or Shirley Devan [sedevan52@cox.net](mailto:sedevan52@cox.net).*



**January 21:** Matt Anthony spotted a Painted Bunting at Paradise Creek Nature Park in Portsmouth. It was one of two females/first-year males at the park and first found by Elisa Flanders.

**January 26:** The Rail that Nancy Barnhart saw at Jamestown Island was mislabeled....this is a Virginia Rail. Sorry, Nancy.

**January 28:** Matt Anthony was lucky enough to see a Snowy Owl at East Beach in Norfolk. It had been first found by a local resident and reported in the online local news site.

**February 7 & 9:** On the 7<sup>th</sup>, a Black-headed Gull was seen by Matt Anthony and Dan Cristol at Grandview Nature Preserve. Cheryl Jacobson saw one on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**February 7:** Matt Anthony saw a Lapland Longspur at Grandview Beach.

**February 12:** Jan Lockwood has a Red-shouldered Hawk at her feeder, making her count 'low for the day'.

**February 13:** Matt Anthony saw a Lark Sparrow at the Back Bay NWR in Virginia Beach. This bird was first found by Sue & Joe Garvin.

**February 15:** Bill Williams saw a Western Tanager in Settler's Mill as well as a Merlin at Drummond's Field (Mainland Farm). The Merlin flew "within 20 meters carrying a small passerine that was vocalizing/squealing". He also saw 8 Savannah Sparrows at Drummond's Field/Mainland Farm.

**February 17:** Shirley Devan and Cheryl Jacobson spotted an American Woodcock at The Chickahominy Riverfront Park.

**February 17:** Nancy Barnhart reported a pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches at Jamestown Island.

**February 19:** Bill Williams reported two American White Pelicans seen at College Creek. He noted that "5 to 6 have been present at Hog Island for about 2 weeks".



*Photo of the Brown-headed Nuthatch provided by Nancy Barnhart.*

**February 23:** Bill Williams still had that Western Tanager at the feeder at his house in Settler's Mill.

## Feeding the Birders...

### (AKA Refreshments at our Meetings!)

The Williamsburg Bird Club has so many generous volunteers who are willing to provide refreshments for our monthly meetings. In January, Cathy Millar brought homemade ginger cookies in various bird shapes which were quite tasty and cute. For February, cookies have been donated by two of our bird club members. In March, Virginia Boyles has signed up to bring goodies. We need volunteers for **April and May meetings**. Then in September, Jeanette Navia will provide the refreshments.

**October is still open.** November treats will be supplied by Judy Jones and Patty Maloney.

If you'd like to help out, contact Ruth Gordon (757) 208-0757 [ruthkagordon@gmail.com](mailto:ruthkagordon@gmail.com) or Jan Lockwood (757) 634-4164 [nzedr@msn.com](mailto:nzedr@msn.com). And please remember, you don't need to provide anything fancy. Keep it simple! Refreshments provide us with a delightful way to chat and keep in touch. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered for this year, and in advance to those who will fill the openings. Many thanks!

## Bird Walk at New Quarter Park, February 13<sup>th</sup>



*This is the group photo (a selfie from this high-tech crowd) from the NQP Bird Walk on February 13<sup>th</sup>.*

*From left to right: Joyce Lowry, Jan Lockwood, Lieve Keeney, Jim Corliss, and Carolyn Glendenning.*

Led by Jim Corliss, this crowd of bundled-up birders observed 24 species on a morning when the tide on Queen's Creek was low and the temperature even lower. Highlights included 5 Bald Eagles (2 were juveniles), and 5 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 4 adults and 1 immature. The adults had complete red heads, white wing patches, and were seen in the open at 100 feet by all 5 birders!

## A Great Trip to the CBBT Islands by Car

*By Judy Jones*

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 32 hearty souls drove to the toll booth parking lot at the CBBT to begin their



adventures on the islands of the CBBT. It was a wonderful day to explore each of the four and our success was great. We saw a Peregrine Falcon, captured beautifully for us by Barbara Houston, as well as seals, Harlequin Ducks, Northern Gannets diving for food, a Horned Grebe, Greater and Lesser Black-back Gulls...the list goes on and on. Here are some photos to show you a little of what you may have missed.



*Northern Gannets diving for food...photo by Nancy Barnhart.*

*This gannet and gull pass swiftly in a photo captured by Matt Anthony.*



*Can you find the 20 seals in this photo by Barbara Houston?*

## President's Corner (continued)

Captain Rick started our foray in Willis Wharf with close-up views of over 300 marbled godwits, willets, dowitchers (short and long-billed) and dunlins, plus a flock of Ruddy Turnstones. From there we headed seaward where we saw American Oystercatchers dining on oyster reefs or ribbed mussels on tidal marshland. Soon we were surrounded by swimming, flying and diving ducks and grebes. Overhead tundra swans were migrating to their northern breeding grounds. Near Hogg Island, we found a flock of a couple hundred brant, first flying and then paving a stretch of water. Clouds of dunlins engaged in frantic evasive flight from what seemed to be an imaginary threat.

But we never lost sight of the grail bird. And it was WBC's own Jason Strickland who spotted three distant long-billed curlews on the edge of a marshy spit. Amid great excitement we beached the boat to drink in our fill of these rare and exotic visitors to Virginia. Their large russet-colored bodies rival the beautiful form and feathers of the marbled godwits we had seen earlier. After taking in distant views we decided to risk closer approach and Captain Rick was able to position us to drift quietly by the curlews several times without disturbing them. These were magic moments, and we left the birds undisturbed after having our fill of their activity.

When we set a course for home, we noticed that we had an aerial escort. An adult peregrine falcon made a few lazy passes over our boat and then suddenly went into a shallow dive toward the water surface, where a terror-stricken bufflehead made a frantic dive to get away. The peregrine was flying at breakneck speed and climbed steeply, seeming to go off into the distance. Moments later it appeared over us again and made another blitz attack run, this time at a horned grebe, which made a frantic dive just in time to avoid the peregrine's pass. This time the peregrine went to perch briefly on a nearby pole, posing for our photos. Then it resumed similar attacks on birds as we passed them. The peregrine used us as a distraction and the speed of his attacks was stunning. At one point he almost took a bufflehead in a tailchase, before it hit the water and dove, and I wondered if the peregrine was truly out for prey or merely enjoying the chase. I have never seen a peregrine light the jets that way, and it was an awesome sight! Soon after, a cry went up for Captain Rick to stop and wait for a bird, which had offered a tantalizing glimpse before diving. When it surfaced, it could plainly be seen to be a grebe with a long swan-like curving white neck. We cruised around and photographed a Western Grebe, a true rarity, and a bonus bird for our great trip. This bird is a lifer for me and, combined the peregrine hunting demo and our grail bird, we had an amazing and beautiful day.

You might be interested in joining one of Captain Rick Kellam's Backwater Bay Ecotours. Cheryl Jacobson is interested and has offered to organize a group of six. Her contact info is [jcheryljoy@aol.com](mailto:jcheryljoy@aol.com). If you wish to book your own group tour, Captain Rick's email address is [barrierislands1@gmail.com](mailto:barrierislands1@gmail.com) and his phone number is 757-710-0568.

With spring approaching, some good events are planned. The first is New Kent Forestry Center's "Walk in the Forest" on Saturday, March 12. WBC will host a bird walk to start off the day at 8 AM. Following our two hour bird walk, there will be a number of forest-oriented activities and a free tree giveaway.

Among the coolest places you can bird (if you're lucky!) in Virginia is Curle's Neck. And that is where Jim Corliss has arranged for us to bird on Sunday, 13 March. Unfortunately, our trip to this gorgeous plantation-like property is full. We are lucky the owners have consented to allow a group from our club to enjoy their property for a visit again this year. Ellison Orcutt of Richmond Audubon will be our expert trip leader. Great day ahead!!

As our spring migrants start to arrive, we will head to the Dismal Swamp! And, last but not least is our upcoming program for our March meeting. At 7 PM on Wednesday, March 16, our meeting will feature a program in which we learn about the Breeding Bird Survey project which will span the next five years. Members of our club can volunteer to be trained to participate in the survey. This is a critical conservation tool and our club can make a valuable contribution while enjoying our state's birds!

## Correction -- Results from the 2015 Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count

Oops.....we made a little mistake on the Christmas Bird Count summary in our February newsletter. Here is the corrected first paragraph, with the correction in bold. "On December 20, 2015, the Williamsburg Bird Club and friends broke two century marks! A total of 101 participants tallied 117 bird species in the Williamsburg count circle on a beautifully clear 52° F day. The species count fell just short of last year's record 120 species for our circle, but this was **only the second year in our history (the first was 2013)** when the number of participants, field observers and feeder watchers combined, topped 100. At this rate, we'll soon see the participants outnumber the species!"

## “What Do Birds Eat?”

By Shirley Devan

Any self-respecting birder knows what birds eat! They eat suet and seeds from the bird store in the winter and insects and worms in the spring and summer. Easy!

As you would expect, the real answer is more complicated. The article – “What Do Birds Eat” – by Dr. Doug Tallamy in the March/April 2016 issue of Bird Watcher’s Digest describes just how complex the relationship is between birds and the arthropods (insects, spiders, and crustaceans) they eat. Doug Tallamy is Professor and Chairman of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. He is the author of Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in our Gardens. He lectures frequently on the topic of the relationship between native plants, insects, and birds, and many people here have enjoyed his presentations and own his book.

Birds need insects and spiders for their high protein value. For nestlings to grow, fledge, and survive the first weeks out of the nest, they need protein and fat. Adult birds need protein and fat too. Seeds and fruits are not enough! And not all insects, spiders, and caterpillars are equal in nutrition value.

As Dr. Tallamy points out, most ornithologists study birds, not insects; and most entomologists study insects, and not birds. Most birds’ prey items have been described to the “order” level – Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, Coleoptera, etc. But each of these orders has thousands and tens of thousands of species. Yow! What’s an overwhelmed entomologist or ornithologist to do?

Photographers and citizen scientists to the rescue!

*Photo by Judy Jones*

Per Doug Tallamy: “There is so much we don’t know about which arthropods are a ‘must’ for healthful bird nutrition that my graduate students and I are embarking on a long term research project to document exactly which species of insects are eaten by birds all over the country, particularly when they are feeding nestlings. But we need your help.”



“What I [Dr. Tallamy] hope to do is encourage members of the birding community from all over the country – citizen scientists, if you will – to submit images of birds holding arthropods in their bills. ... We will then identify the order, family, and, when possible, the species of prey and incorporate this information into an interactive Excel file on a public website. ... The potential for gathering information previously unattainable to scientists from this approach is enormous and very exciting to those of us who have asked the simple question, ‘What do birds eat?’”

Why is this important? Per Dr. Tallamy, “We cannot manage habitats for breeding birds without knowing what breeding birds eat while reproducing.” When scientists know which specific arthropods birds eat, then they’ll know which specific plants host those arthropods. With this knowledge we can better manage our public and private landscapes (and yards!) to preserve and increase the plants that birds need.

You can help by uploading your images of birds carrying arthropods (insects, spiders, or crustaceans) at <https://www.whatdobirdseat.com>. Include your name, date, location of the image, and your best guess as whether the bird was migrating (spring or fall), feeding young, or overwintering. Even a single image will be much appreciated.

I know many birders/photographers in our area whose computers are stuffed with images of birds with insects in their bills. Now is your chance to put those images to work for science.

## Pay Your 2016 Dues!

Now is the time to pay your dues for 2016. Use the renewal form inside this newsletter. We hope you will add something extra to your check to support our Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships (3 in 2016), our Ruth Beck and Bill Sheehan Ornithology Research Grants to Biology Graduate Students (4 in 2016), and the feeder stations at the Child Development Resources campus. Membership dues alone do not support these efforts. We can’t do it without you!

## The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnels by Boat – What a Great Day!

By Matt Anthony



On Saturday, February 6, 2016, a group of sixty birders gather at Lynnhaven Inlet for the annual boat trip aboard the Bay Princess. The trip drew birders of all ages and experience levels, and we couldn't have asked for nicer weather! We started seeing good birds before even leaving the docks, with two Brant providing close views. We also saw a group of Black Skimmers resting on the beach opposite the dock. While Black Skimmers are relatively uncommon in this area in winter, a small group has been spending the winter at nearby Pleasure House Point. On our way out of the inlet, we were treated to views of an Osprey perched atop a construction crane.

*Photo taken by Jet Ski Brian Lockwood.*

After departing from Lynnhaven Inlet, we headed for the first island of the CBBT. Several Northern Gannets passed by the boat, and we began seeing Bufflehead, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Common Loons sitting on the water. At one point, we stopped the boat to look at a potential Razorbill, but the bird dove before the identification could be confirmed. Once we got out to Island #1, we began seeing large numbers of Surf Scoters. A diligent check of the hundreds of gulls perched on the rocks yielded two Lesser Black-backed Gulls, as well as several Ruddy Turnstones foraging on the rocks.

Moving on to Island #2, we got our first looks at Long-tailed Ducks when two birds flushed in front of the boat. We also had excellent views of a Greater Scaup and a female Black Scoter that were associating together and allowed us to approach very closely. We checked one of the concrete outcroppings where Great Cormorants often hang out, and were not disappointed. Everyone got excellent views of 22 Great Cormorants, many of them adults. These cooperative birds provided excellent size comparisons with Double-cresteds, and we were also able to see the distinctive white



throat patch. Checking the rocks, we spotted another target bird, the Purple Sandpiper. These pretty shorebirds only visit this area in the winter, and the rocks around the CBBT can be one of the most reliable places to spot them. However, their secretive habits and cryptic coloring can sometimes make them difficult to spot, so we were fortunate that everyone got good views. Seeing a mass of gulls moving on the opposite side of the island, we decided to circle around and check the flock. While we did not find any unusual gulls, we did see several more Lesser Black-backed Gulls, as well as an adult Brown Pelican roosting on the rocks with the gull flock. We also had great looks at a Harbor Seal pup sunning on the rocks at Island #2.

*Northern Gannet Photo by Barbara Houston*

As we moved on to the third island, things really started picking up. Right when we arrived, we noticed a shorebird fly in, which proved to be an American Oystercatcher. Everyone had great views of this bird, which is not often seen on this trip. Moving up to the north end of the island, everyone was excited to get great views and photos of a group of no less than a dozen Harbor Seals, tightly clustered on the rocks at the point. While some people continued to enjoy the seals, several of us were carefully checking the mass of gulls for rarities. After a few minutes, Ernie Miller called out from the top deck that he had spotted a Black-legged Kittiwake. This small gull usually prefers to stay far out to sea, and is only very rarely seen from land. Many of us had been hoping to see some on the pelagic trips which were weather out, so getting to spot one so close to shore was a nice bonus! Shortly after Ernie spotted it, the bird picked up from the rocks and circled several times, allowing many people to get good views of it in flight before it settled down on the other side of the island. We quickly circled around, hoping to relocate the bird. We were not able to find it immediately and quickly got distracted by three beautiful Harlequin Ducks, tightly hugging the rocky shore of the island. The Harlequin Duck is among the most beautiful waterfowl and these birds, two drakes and a hen, did not disappoint. While we were looking at the ducks, I managed to relocate the Black-legged Kittiwake, giving us a second chance to view it. This is the first time that this species has been seen on the boat trip, and it was clearly the star of the show today!

From here, we moved on to the fourth island in hopes of finding a White-winged Scoter or Common Eider. While we did not have luck with these two species, we did get additional looks at Long-tailed Ducks and Black Scoters. With time running short, we elected to cover Island #4 quickly in order to spend some time in the waters off Cape Henry. As we rode from Island #4 to Cape Henry, we also began to throw out some chum behind the boat. This mixture of fish parts leftover from the previous day's catch is a potent attractor for gulls and gannets, and it did not let us down. We soon had a sizeable flock of birds following closely behind the boat. We got many stunning looks of Northern Gannets very close to the boat, and it was spectacular to watch them dive from so close that you could actually see the bird go underwater! During the ride, we also had several Razorbills fly by. These small alcids are inconspicuous and easily flushed by boats, so it was hard to get a good look at them. We ended up tallying 20 birds, but almost all of them were distant flybys that were hard to get everyone on. However, the frustration caused by the Razorbills was quickly alleviated when we noticed that a second cycle Iceland Gull had joined the large flock behind the boat. This elegant gull is much paler than the closely related Herring Gull, and it is a rare winter visitor in our area. The bird stayed close behind the boat for a long time, allowing everyone to get excellent views and photographs. Although Iceland Gulls are not common visitors, this bird was the third distinct individual to be sighted in Virginia Beach this week. The other two were an adult and a first cycle bird, respectively, so it was clear that our bird was different.



Photo by Barbara Houston

To top the trip off, we encountered a whale watching boat as we were headed back to Lynnhaven, which meant that whales could not be far off. It was not long before we were treated to views of a Humpback Whale spouting and breaching. We were delighted to watch this amazing animal breach several more times, including a few instances where it lifted its tail flukes all the way out of the water. It is not uncommon for some Humpback

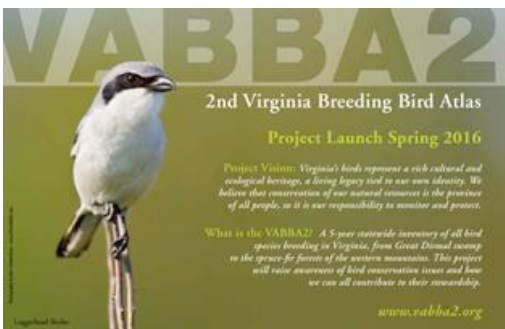
Whales to spend the winter near the mouth of the bay, but they can sometimes be difficult to locate, so stumbling upon this one was a nice conclusion to an amazing trip! Thank you to everyone who joined us for this fun morning of birding, and thank you to the Williamsburg Bird Club for inviting me to lead the trip. After this awesome outing, I can hardly wait until next year's trip!

## Virginia's Second Breeding Bird Atlas – Showcasing the Value of Citizen Science for Conservation Research

**Project Vision:** *Virginia's birds represent a rich cultural and ecological heritage, a living legacy tied to our own identity. We believe that conservation of our natural resources is the province of all people, so it is our responsibility to monitor and protect.*

**What is the VABBA2?** It is a 5-year statewide inventory of all bird species breeding in Virginia, from the Great Dismal Swamp to the spruce-fir forests of the western mountains. This project will raise awareness of bird conservation issues and how we can all contribute to their stewardship.

**Who is involved?** The VABBA2 is a project of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO), coordinated by an Atlas Coordinator based at the Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech. Other important partner organizations include: eBird, Virginia Audubon Council and Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture. We are actively seeking to partner with local bird clubs, Audubon and Virginia Master Naturalists chapters, plus other interested organizations.



**Why is the VABBA2 unique?** This will be the single largest citizen science based project conducted in Virginia, relying on not only state agencies and non-profits for support, but hundreds of volunteers to help collect field data on bird occurrence and breeding status across the state.

Photo courtesy of iBird Photos

**Why is it important?** Data collected by volunteers will provide critical data on the status and distribution of Virginia's birds, informing management and guiding conservation strategies.

**How do I get involved?** We need many volunteers to collect Atlas data, as well as assist and in spreading the word through outreach efforts. Please visit the VABBA2 website ([www.vabba2.org](http://www.vabba2.org)) for more information about participating in this exciting and ambitious project

Here is some info from the VSO's website so you can search out more information for yourselves:

<http://www.virginiabirds.net/Virginia-Breeding-Bird-Atlas.html>

## Birding with Cameras.....

*(Left) Female Painted Bunting Painted Bunting, seen at Paradise Creek Nature Park in Portsmouth on January 21<sup>st</sup>. One of two females/first-year males at the park and was first found by Elisa Flanders. (Right) Lapland Longspur at Grandview Beach in Hampton on February 7<sup>th</sup>.*



*Both  
photos by  
Matt  
Anthony*



*A thirsty Turkey Vulture seen by  
Shirley Devan on February 19<sup>th</sup>  
at York River State Park.*



*A Northern Gannet ready to gobble some yummys....taken by Barbara Houston on the CBBT boat ride on February 6<sup>th</sup>.*



*A lovely Cedar Waxwing loves sitting in the sunlight. This photo was taken by Martha Baker.*



*Black-headed Gull seen at Grandview Beach, Hampton on February 7<sup>th</sup> by both Dan Cristol and photographer by Matt Anthony.*



*A Carolina Wren photographed by Mike Jaskowiak at his home.*



*Two Purple Sandpipers photographed by Barbara Houston on February 20<sup>th</sup> at the CBBT Island #3.*



*A Carolina Chickadee photographed by Martha Baker.*



*This Snowy Owl was spotted on East Beach in Norfolk on January 28<sup>th</sup>. He was first found by a local resident and reported in the online local news site. This photo was taken by Matt Anthony.*



*A Lark Sparrow photographed by Matt Anthony at Back Bay NWR in Virginia Beach on February 13<sup>th</sup>. It was first spotted by Sue and Joe Garvin.*



*These Harlequin Ducks, photographed by Barbara Houston on February 20<sup>th</sup> at the CBBT Island #2, may be the same three spotted on the boat trip to the islands on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February.*



*The photo of the seals was taken by Barbara Houston on the CBBT boat trip on February 6.*

*This Red-shouldered Hawk at Jan Lockwood's feeder on February 12<sup>th</sup> was definitely in charge that day. No other birds dared to come near.*



## CALENDAR

Sunday, March 6	Hampton Roads Bird Club sponsors Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7 am. Meet in the parking lot near Ranger Station. <a href="http://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org">http://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org</a>
Saturday, March 12	"Walk in the Woods" at New Kent Forestry. (Details are on page 1.)
Saturday, March 12	Bird Walk at New Quarter Park, 8 am. Meet at the parking lot near the office.
Sunday, March 13	WBC Field Trip to Curle's Neck Farm with Ellison Orcutt. (This trip is full.)
Wednesday, March 16	Bird Club Meeting, 7 PM (note new time and location), the Integrative Science Center, Room 1127, W&M Campus. (Details on page 1)
Sunday, March 20	Hampton Roads Bird Club sponsors Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7 am. Meet in the parking lot near Ranger Station.
Saturday, March 26	Bird Walk at New Quarter Park, 7 am. Meet at the parking lot near the office.
Saturday, April 16	WBC Field Trip to Great Dismal Swamp with Bob Ake
Sunday, May 15	Spring Bird Count
Saturday, May 21	WBC Field Trip to Highland County with Matt Anthony