



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 32, No. 5

www.williamsburgbirdclub.org

May 2008

President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

When someone finds out that I'm in the Williamsburg Bird Club, they almost always have a story to tell me about the antics of their backyard birds and how much they enjoy feeding and watching the birds. When I ask if they are members of the Bird Club, a frequent response is: "Oh, I can't get up that early to go on those trips you take, so there's no point in joining the club."

WRONG! One reason to support the club is to ensure that those birds keep returning to backyard feeders—here and across the country.

To be sure, our programs, walks, and field trips are fun and educational. Getting together with other bird watchers and sharing adventures is a great hobby.

Keep in mind that an important mission of our club is the preservation of wild birds **and** their habitats so that we'll continue to have the diversity of birds we enjoy in the decades ahead. That requires scientific study by professionals and students as well as action here at home.

(Continued on page 2)

June 1 Annual Picnic Postponed to Fall

By Shirley Devan

As some of you know, Ruth Beck is hospitalized in Charlottesville with Guillain-Barré Syndrome and is likely to be in the hospital or rehab center for several weeks.

Obviously, she and Sherwin will not be able to host our Annual Picnic June 1. We have decided to postpone the picnic until the fall. By that time, Ruth will be able to give us some input on a preferred location (local park perhaps) or be ready to host it at her house, as she loves to do.

Thanks so much for understanding. We look forward to our fall picnic when we'll celebrate our Club's 31st year and Ruth's return to good health (we hope!).

May 21 Meeting — *Conserving America's Birds*



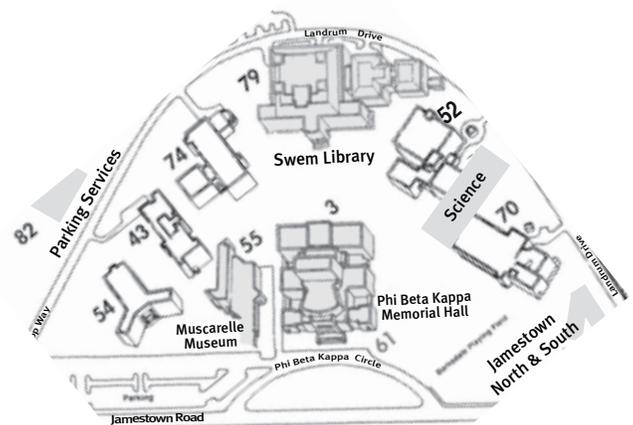
Dr. George H. Fenwick, President of the American Bird Conservancy, will present a program entitled "Conserving America's Birds" in which he will highlight the work of the Conservancy he founded in 1994, the only US-based group with a major focus on bird habitat conservation throughout the entire Americas. He will

speaking about the vital work being done by the ABC and their partnerships/alliances to save our native wild birds.

You can read more about the American Bird Conservancy's domestic and international programs, as well as their science and monitoring efforts and alliances with other conservation organizations at their web site: www.abcbirds.org

Refreshments will be provided by Lucile Kossodo & others.

Meeting is at 7:30 PM in Andrews Hall, Room 100 (directly behind Phi Beta Kappa Hall on Jamestown Road—Bldg. #3 on map below)



Welcome to New Members

Welcome back to Caitlin Kight

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Bob Long	

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Library Liaison	565-6148
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Historian	259-9559
Cynthia Long	

Request from Our Historian

Cynthia Long asks that members save clippings from the newspapers for her. She says she and Bob don't always catch all the publicity.

(President's Corner continued from page 1)

In another part of this newsletter, you'll read about the three graduate students who received the Bird Club's 2008 ornithology research grants. Even though our grants are "only" \$500, the students tell us they are much needed and go towards meaningful research.

If you have any doubts about that last statement, I refer you to another note in this newsletter about the publication of "The movement of aquatic mercury through terrestrial food webs" in the most recent edition of the journal *Science*. Dr. Dan Cristol at W&M and his research students, including recent Bird Club grant recipients, Rebecca Brasso, Ann Condon and Ariel White, have been studying mercury in the food web for several years, and received well-deserved nation-wide attention with the publication of this important research, which continues.

Caitlin Kight, now a doctoral student in Applied Science at W&M and the recipient of three research grants 2004 – 2006, is the author of "Grassland Birds" in the May/June issue of *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Her article calls attention to the loss of critical grassland habitat and the threatened birds that rely on grasslands for their survival.

I have no doubt that we'll be hearing about our 2008 grant recipients in the near future.

Here close to home, the Bird Club, in cooperation with other local organizations, is working to restore suitable habitat for Bobwhite Quail at New Quarter Park. Thanks to the generosity of quite a few people, this project has incurred little out-of-pocket costs to the clubs.

The club also makes financial grants to local organizations whose purpose is the study and preservation of wild birds and their habitats: Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory, the Williamsburg Land Conservancy, and the Center for Conservation Biology at W&M.

For the first time this year, we've awarded a scholarship to a youth to attend Nature Camp at Vesuvius, Virginia. These students sometimes also end up with a research grant in graduate school and go on to significant scientific research and scholarship.

So let your friends and neighbors know that the Bird Club is about more than field trips. With our projects and our funding, the Club demonstrates its confidence in the future and the promise of our youth.

The Club is serious about preserving birds and their habitat and we support people and organizations that further that goal. Many thanks to all who support us. Additional

members will allow us to increase our support of critical research to save our favorite backyard birds. Pass the word to the backyard birders!

No Field Trip in May

The Spring Bird Count on the 4th is taking the place of our May Field Trip. Check the calendar on the back page for other opportunities to join fellow local birders to look for new arrivals and old friends (of the feathered variety).

Ornithology Research Grant Recipients

There are three 2008 recipients of the research grants awarded by the Williamsburg Bird Club. They are: (1) Allyson Jackson (a Bill Sheehan grant)—"Golf Courses as Replacement Habitats: Effects on Fledgling Survival?". (2) Mikaela Howie (the Ruth Beck grant)—"The Infiltration of Aquatic Mercury into the Terrestrial Ecosystem". (3) Ryan Burdge (a Bill Sheehan grant)—"Pesticide Exposure and Diet of an Insectivorous Songbird on Virginia Golf Courses". Each grant is for \$500.

April Bird Sightings

Report your backyard birds and local sightings to Fred Blystone at 229-4346 or fb19481@verizon.net. If you encounter interesting birds on your vacation/travels, please share!

April 2: Gary and Ann Carpenter did a birding walk at Colonial Heritage, on some dirt roads behind the construction zone running under power lines down to a pump house by a very marshy wetlands area. They saw: Yellow-rumps, Northern Cardinal, Carolina Wren, Chipping Sparrows, Red-shouldered Hawks, Northern Flickers, a Wood Duck, a Hermit Thrush, Song Sparrow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Tufted Titmouse, Red-tailed Hawk, Turkey Vultures, Canada Geese, a Double-crested Cormorant and Eastern Bluebirds.



Photo by Shirley Devan

April 2: Bill Williams, Fred Blystone, Shirley Devan and Alex Minarik visit the Eastern Shore. Eighty-two species were seen despite high winds that depressed the numbers of little woodland birds. Highlights were: 2 Tricolored Herons and a Wild Turkey (heard) at Ramp Road, a Little Blue Heron (photo) at Oyster,

Whimbrel, Marbled Godwits, Short-billed Dowitchers & Willets at Willis Wharf, Eurasian Collared Doves and a Eastern Screech Owl (heard) on Magotha Road, and hundreds of Northern Gannets flying over the bay in the area of Sunset Beach.

April 2: Bill Williams reports there was a Solitary Sandpiper at Green Springs Trail. This is 12 days ahead of the previous first arrival date for our immediate area.

April 5: At York River State Park, Shirley Devan sees two Louisiana Waterthrushes in the swamp.

April 6: Tom Armour reports he still has Purple Finches coming to his feeder and that he had his first Barn Swallow of the year at the airport and that there was one Common Snipe at Treasure Island Road.

April 9: Jeanne Frey emails in a Spring update from Surry: "Yesterday a small flock of "butter butts" warblers. Tree Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, goldfinches, Purple Finches, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatches, Carolina Wrens, many swallows (what kind?), and 2 imported from Williamsburg Canada geese, all contributed to a bonanza of bird watching." Grace Doyle reports a Wood Thrush in her Kingsmill yard. Previous early date was April 10.

April 10: At around 9 AM, Linda Scherer sees a Great Egret feeding in the inlet from the James River in First Colony. It looked to be in breeding plumage. From Lois Leeth: I am happy to report my sightings at the Kingsmill Marina---163 seagulls--143 cormorants---1 Great Blue Heron---1 Pelican---12 Royal Terns--1 Osprey with a nice catch---at my feeder--Carolina Wren--House Finches---Chickadees--- Goldfinches---Doves---3 Grackles---Blue-gray Gnatcatchers---Titmouses---and lots of sparrows including the white throated and House sparrows--Lots of Robins and several crows-

April 11: Bill Williams finds 5 Glossy Ibis (photo) in the Gospel Spreading Farm field.



Photo by Steve Devan



Photo by Fred Blystone

April 12: Fred Blystone reports a Cattle Egret (photo) on the isthmus to Jamestown Island. He calls the Devans and Steve gets great pictures of it and also of the Ibis that were still at Gospel

Spreading Farm. Tom Armour reports that a neighbor had a Ruby-throated Hummingbird feeding on their blooming Jasmine.

April 12: Joe & Grace report two Prairie Warblers, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and a Tufted Titmouse in the nest box usually occupied by the House Wren. In the pond they observe an Osprey landing on a

tree branch with a big fish, Shortly, a Bald Eagle started dive bombing the osprey and finally chased it down the pond. Later in the day, another Osprey landed in a tree in their yard and was harassed by a Red-tail Hawk.

April 13: Lee Schuster emails that she had her first Ruby-throated Hummingbird of the season, which is much later than she normally sees them. She also had her first “yard” Red-headed Woodpecker. They have been hosting a Louisiana Waterthrush for two weeks, and she and Dave also heard an Ovenbird earlier in the week.

April 13: During their visit to Camp Peary, Joe & Grace Doyle have FOS Prairie Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Yellow-throated Warblers, Ovenbird and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. They also observed a Brown Creeper, Red-headed Woodpecker, several Osprey and a Bald Eagle perched near an old nest (they are not sure it is nesting).

April 13: Bill Williams reports a singing male Blue Grosbeak at Mainland Farm. This resets the early date for this species by one day. Also there was a singing Orchard Oriole in Settler’s Mill, resetting the early date for this species by 3 days. Brian Taber reports that 3 White Pelicans were seen from the hawkwatch circling above Hog Island.

April 14: Shirley Devan reports her first Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

April 15: Shirley Devan, Bill Williams and Fred Blystone visit CBBT #1 and Northhampton County on another very windy day. Highlights were a lone male Harlequin Duck, two Seaside Sparrows (photo) and a Bank Swallow on CBBT #1. Species totaled 63 for the day.



Photo by Shirley Devan

April 18: Bill Williams and Fred Blystone visit Jamestown Island. During the 1-1/2 hours a total of 51 species were identified. The highlights were a Blue-headed Vireo, approximately 20 Red-headed Woodpeckers and one Boat-tailed Grackle, a bird rarely seen in James City County.

April 19: Linda Scherer writes: Late this afternoon we had a male Orchard Oriole at our hummingbird feeder (no hummingbirds yet). Business at the birdbath/spa was good this afternoon, too. We had a pair of bluebirds, Brown Thrasher, Towhee, White-throated & House Sparrows, chickadees, and, at one point, the Orchard Oriole sharing the bath with the chickadees.

April 19: Grace & Joe Doyle walked as far as the bridge over the swamp on the Country Road near Kingsmill. They observed White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Great-

crested Flycatcher, Barn Swallow & think they heard a distant Tanager. Mute Swans and Canada Geese are nesting in the swamp. In their yard, they still have a Red-breasted Nuthatch, as well as Red-bellied & Red-headed Woodpeckers and Belted Kingfisher around the pond.

April 19: Gary & Ann Carpenter watch a Cooper’s Hawk land with its prey in their neighbors’ back yard, and proceed to devour its dinner, a Mourning Dove

April 20: Shirley Devan sees her FOS Blue Grosbeak at York River State Park.

April 21: Brian Taber reports a Peregrine Falcon, a Merlin and a hummingbird at the College Creek Hawkwatch.

April 22: Grace Doyle reports hearing a Chestnut-sided Warbler in her yard. She also had two Bald Eagles flying down the pond as well as a mother duck with ducklings marching near the pond. Anna Mollo reports that two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have appeared at her bird feeder in Ford’s Colony.

April 24: Bill Williams, Alex Minarik, Fred Blystone & Shirley Devan bird at Chippokes and Hog Island. There were a total of 86 species seen or heard. The target bird, Northern Bobwhite, was heard at Chippokes.

April 25: Lois Leeth reports she has a new “regular” at her feeder—a White-breasted Nuthatch. It’s joined her doves, cardinals, chickadees, goldfinches, House Finches, White-throated Sparrows, towhees, Brown Thrasher and a Carolina Wren.

April 26: On the Doyles’ walk down the Country Road, they had Louisiana Waterthrush, a pair of Prothonotary Warblers, Summer Tanagers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, 2 Great Egrets, Mute Swans and Great Blue Heron. Today in Kathi Mestay-er’s yard were a family of Carolina Wrens in the woodpile, Great Crested Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Hairy Woodpecker & White-eyed Vireo. In the woods around Lake Matoaka were a Black and White Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warblers, Red-eyed Vireo, Bluebird, Wood Ducks, Hermit Thrush, Veery and a family of Summer Tanagers.

April 27: Fred Blystone has a single male Rose-breasted Grosbeak show up in his yard. Tom Armour reports seeing 2 Greater Yellowlegs, a Common Snipe, a Common Yellowthroat, a Blue Grosbeak and a Red-eyed Vireo



Photo by Fred Blystone

at Treasure Island Road. There were 7 Purple Martins at the nest box at Lake Powell & Airport Road. Bill Wil-

liams reports a Worm-eating Warbler in his yard. On his Green Springs walk, Bill has a Cattle Egret, a Baltimore Oriole, a Yellow-breasted Chat, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, House Wren, Northern Waterthrush, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Buntings and sees 22 distant birds that he thinks might have been Glossy Ibis.

April 28: Mary Anne and John Fennell report an Indigo Bunting coming to their thistle feeder. Alex Minarik reports having a Hooded Warbler and a Kentucky Warbler in the swamp behind her house. The latter was a first ever for her yard.

April 29: Tom Armour reports a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at his feeders.

Hampton Roads Bird Club May News

Ryan Burdge, a graduate student in the Biology Department at the College of William and Mary, will be the speaker at the May 8th Hampton Roads Bird Club meeting at Sandy Bottom Nature Par, 1255 Big Bethel Road, in Hampton.

Ryan will speak about his research studying the impact of insecticides on Eastern Bluebirds on golf courses. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

The HRBC May field trip will be on the 10th to the James River Park in Richmond and then to Dutch Gap Conservation Area in Chester. Call Jane Frigo at 873-0721 or email her at birderjane@gmail.com for future details.

HRBC April Newport News Park Walks

The regularly scheduled Sunday park walk on April 6, 2008, at Newport News City Park began under drizzle and heavy cloud cover. Four hearty souls, Richard Hudgins, Tom Chalock, Fred Blystone and Jane Frigo, braved the 50 degree temperatures to see what spring migrants had arrived. FOS arrivals included Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Rough-winged Swallows. 43 species were recorded.



Photo by Fred Blystone

On the 20th, the walk also began under drizzle and heavy cloud cover and didn't get a whole lot better, but the 12 participants were able to come up with 60 species during the 3-1/2 hour walk. The highlights of the walk were Green Heron, Great Crested Flycatcher, Northern Parula, a very cooperative Prothonotary Warbler (photo) and two Brown-

headed Nuthatches that came down within several feet of the whole group.

Walks are conducted the 1st and 3rd Sundays year round in the park by the HRBC. Meet at the parking lot to the left of the Ranger Station around 7 AM. So far this year a total of 89 species have been seen during these Sunday walks.

The HRBC April field trip was also to the Great Dismal Swamp, but on April 12th. Highlights were a Louisiana Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Prothonotary Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Prairie Warbler, Hooded Warbler and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Looking for rare birds? Try eBird's new Google gadget

From *Birdscope* published by Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Imagine having all rare bird reports recorded in eBird (www.ebird.org) in your home state delivered straight to your desktop. That's exactly what the new eBird Rare Bird Gadget does. You'll receive alerts including important details such as observer information and mapping information. Any record submitted to eBird that requires the user to click the "Rare species" link on the checklist page will now appear on the rare bird gadget. You'll know within minutes when someone reports a great bird in your region. To find out how to use the gadget go to the Google website and type in "eBird Rare Bird gadget" and follow the instructions.

Shorebird Book

By Brian Taber

Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory has just published a book entitled, "*Shorebirds at Chincoteague: Patterns of Migration on the Virginia Coast.*" It is edited by Ned Brinkley, Observatory Advisor and author of the National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Birds of North America, out just last year, and editor of North American Birds magazine, the quarterly journal of ornithological record published by the American Birding Association....and worldwide field trip leader....and much, much more. Ned edited the manuscript of Claudia Phelps Wilds, who conducted 15 years of extensive surveys at Chincoteague, but she passed away in 1997 before the text could be finally organized. Ned also penned the Introduction, pointing to Claudia's role as "teacher... role model...modern birder and old-fashioned naturalist" and one who sought the "elevation of our common understanding of birds and the application of our increased knowledge in the arena of bird conservation." Brian Harrington, of Manomet Bird Observatory, wrote the Foreword adding that "the information she has collected ...has been of

immense use to shorebird conservation research.”

The book, 90 pages, is full of charts, graphs, maps, species accounts, descriptions of census areas, bird-finding information and much more. The cover photo, by Alexandra Wilke of the Virginia Coast Reserve of the Nature Conservancy, is a portrait of the charismatic American Oystercatcher. There is also a great photo of Claudia and also her Chincoteague photo of Virginia’s only record of Mountain Plover. The book is available for a donation of \$10, plus \$2 postage. It would be an excellent addition to any birder’s or researcher’s collection, as well as a great gift for birders or researchers or bird clubs to give to their local libraries and schools. Ask about discounts for orders of 5 or more. To obtain copies of the book, contact Brian Taber at Taberzz@aol.com or write to 103 Exeter Court, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival

In celebration of International Migratory Bird Day, the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is hosting the second annual Great Dismal Birding Festival over Mother’s Day weekend (Friday May 9–Sunday, May 11). This family-friendly event is free and open to the public. Activities include guided bird walks, narrated bus tours, owl prowls, bird banding, bluebird house building, beginner bird walks for kids, and more. Walks and bus tours require reservations, which can be made by calling the Great Dismal Swamp Headquarters at 757-986-3705.

Article in the Journal Science

From an article in the W&M News by Joe McClain

Dan Cristol and co-authors published a paper concerning mercury from the South River moving into the terrestrial food chain in the April 18 issue of the journal *Science*. The paper shows high levels of mercury in birds feeding near, but not from the river. Dan and his group have also identified the source of the pollutant—mercury-laden spiders eaten by the birds. This paper is one of the first, if not the first, to offer scientific documentation of the infiltration of mercury from a contaminated body of water into a purely terrestrial ecosystem.

The South River was polluted with industrial mercury sulfate from around 1930 to 1950. The mercury enters and is passed up the food chain, becoming more concentrated in the bodies of larger animals. The William and Mary group studied the food brought by songbird parents to their nest-

lings. The birds eat a lot of spiders, the spiders have a lot of mercury in them and are delivering the mercury to these songbirds. The question remains as to how the spiders are getting their mercury.



From left, Anne Condon, Rebecka Brasso, Scott Friedman, Ariel White - four of the eight authors and all of the WBC award winners on the paper.

Dan’s group is a part of the Institute for Integrated Bird Behavior Studies at William and Mary. Co-authors are Ariel White, Rebecka Brasso, Scott Friedman, Anne Condon, Rachel Fovargue, Kelly Hallinger and Adrian Monroe. The group will continue their studies of the effect of mercury in the birds, including an examination of the effects of the contaminant on the reproduction and lifespan of the birds.

Entire article can be read by going to www.wm.edu/news and doing a search for Integrated Bird Behavior Studies.

Note: Three of the team members, Rebecka, Anne and Ariel, have been recipients of WBC Research Grants. In addition, one of the recipients of a 2008 grant, Mikaela Howie, will be working on this problem.

Bobwhite Habitat Restoration Project Underway



Photo by Herlen Hamilton

From left, Shirley Devan, Mike Millin, Alice Kopinitz and Seig Kopinitz

By Shirley Devan

Our first workdays in the NQP Bobwhite Habitat were

April 8, 10, and 11. Many thanks to Bird Club members Marian and Rick Bennett, Mike Millin, Alice and Seig Kopinitz, Laurie Houghland, and Ralph and Carolyn Will (from the John Clayton Chapter of the VA Native Plant Society and VA Master Naturalists) for their assistance. We cleared out invasives on one side of the meadow and then planted native grasses that we know Bobwhite Quail like.

Our next workdays will be Thursday, May 15, 8:00 am –12:00 noon and Saturday, June 14 from 10:00–noon (after the Bird Walk). We have quite a few plants to put in the ground thanks to Cynthia Long and many others.

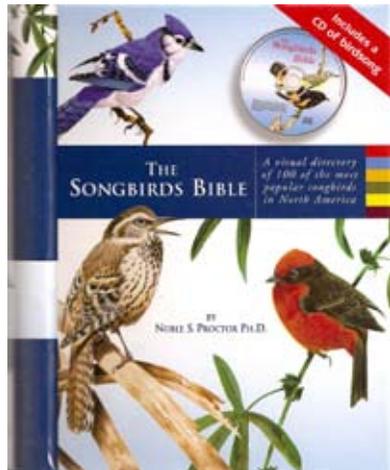
Bring your own tools for planting and wear appropriate gardening attire (grubbies).

Let me know if you can join us —757-813-1322 or sedevan52@cox.net . Many hands make light work!

May 2008 WBC Book Review

By Jeanette Navia

The Songbird's Bible: A visual directory of 100 of the most popular songbirds in North America, by Noble S. Proctor. Sellers Publishing, 2006. Spiral bound. ISBN 9781569065969. \$19.95.



The Songbird's Bible is the latest book from Noble S. Proctor, professor of ornithology at Southern Connecticut State University with forty years field experience. It has a hard-cover and is spiral-bound to lie flat, and includes a compact disc of the birdsongs included in this directory. The

introduction includes information about how birds sing (they have a syrinx rather than a larynx), notes on what times of day they sing, where they sing, and Proctor's understanding of why they sing. He also includes how-to information on backyard birdwatching and how to make simple feeders and houses. The birds are a mix of Eastern and Western birds.

One hundred of the most popular songbirds are included, with two pages devoted to each bird. On the left-hand page are the common and scientific names of the bird and a beautiful illustration by David Ord Kerr. If the male and

female differ remarkably, both are illustrated.

On the right-hand page is Proctor's commentary about the species. "On a cool spring morning in the dense palmetto stand that blankets the pinewoods floor, comes a sweet two-part song, reminiscent of the liquid notes of a Hermit Thrush" (Bachman's Sparrow). Below that is a paragraph about the type of area where the bird is usually found. "Overwintering flocks moving south to the U.S. from their tundra breeding grounds usually head for wind-swept beaches or farm fields..." (Horned Lark). A final paragraph is on how to attract the birds to your garden. "As a skulker, dense cover is attractive. Fruit trees such as a mulberry can attract them, especially in migration. Provide water for all warblers" (Kentucky Warbler).

In a sidebar, Proctor includes a map of the bird's distribution (different graphics for summer, winter, and year-round distributions), a graphic description of the bird's song using simple lines curved up or down, or straight, depending on pitch, and long or short, depending on how long the notes are held, and an alphabetical transcription of the song. For the Hermit Thrush: "oo la la low/ ah la la/ay I a la/la lee." Proctor describes the sequence of the notes. "Always delivered in couplets which alternate between harsh notes and sweet whistles" (Brown Thrasher). Also listed are the time of day the bird usually sings (morning, all day, evening, night), birds with similar songs, and other notes about the species, including behavior, how to identify the bird, its habitat, a description of its nest, and food preferences.

The compact disc of the birdsongs is useful. A female narrator says the species name, and the song is played and repeated. There are no long descriptions as there are in some other birdsong CDs, just the name of the bird and the song.

This is a good book for beginning birders and those who aren't yet familiar with the songs.

April New Quarter Park Walks

Twenty-five birders (over the course of the morning) joined leader Bill Williams for the April 12th walk at New Quarter Park. Forty-six species of birds were identified during the walk. The highlights were a total of 12 Ospreys, all at or near nests, 1 Clapper Rail, 3 Ovenbirds and 1 Yellow-throated Warbler.



Front row: Cynthia Long, Dorothy Whitfield, Bob Long, Jeanette Navia, Linda Scherer

Second row: Lisa Billow (visitor from Norfolk), Harry and Teresa Danforth, Sara Farmer, Cathy Millar, Ian Millar, Margaret Ware

Back row: Bill Williams, Gary Jensen, Marian Bennett, Mike Zickel, Rick Bennett, Pete Berquist, Gary Carpenter.

Also participating in the walk were Sara Lewis, Chuck Rend, Beth Fugate, Shirley Devan, Mike and Jeanne Millin with their grandson Craig.

On April 26th Leader Bill Williams and sixteen other birders had 53 species for the day. There were 12 Ospreys—all associated with nests. In addition to Bill, the participants were Margaret Ware, Joe Piotrowski, David & Phyllis Lee, Cathy Millar, Betty Peterson, Ron & Bobbie Giese, Rosanne Redding, Bonnie Nicholson, Sara Lewis, Roger Grosden, Adrienne Petton, Jeanette Navia, Rick & Marian Bennett.



Photo by Sara Lewis



Photo by Steve Devan

This photo has nothing to do with the walk, but I really like it. When Steve emailed the photo to me, he had it titled “GBH Goth.”

Great Dismal Swamp Field Trip

By Shirley Devan

Seventeen club members and guests visited Jericho Ditch at the Great Dismal Swamp April 19 between 7 and 11 am. Alex Minarik was the leader.

The bird species list for the day totaled 45, which included birds observed as the group drove in and out of Jericho Ditch and birds seen at the gas station where a stop was made before entering the wildlife area. The group also observed a dramatic encounter between two Black Racer snakes in the vines near the path plus a nearby Five-lined Skink.

Butterflies seen included Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Zebra Swallowtail, Palomedes Swallowtail, Pearl Crescents, Spring Azures, Baccabes, and most likely a Great Purple Hairstreak.



Here is a group photo from the Dismal Swamp. Seig Kopinitz took the photo so he was not in the shot. Also missing from the picture are Chuck Litterest, Joanne Andrews and Alex Andrews .

Left to right: Cathy Bond, Dick Kiefer, Sharon Kiefer, Cathy Millar, Betty Peterson, Alex Minarik, Shirley Devan, Alice Kopinitz, Rosanne Reddin, Joe Piotrowski, Linda Scherer, Lisa Billow, Bill Williams.

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 4	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM
Sunday, May 4	Williamsburg Bird Club Spring Count, Contact Bill Williams, 229-1124 or jwwil2@wm.edu
Thursday, May 8	HRBC Monthly Meeting, Ryan Burdge, <i>The Impact of Pesticides on Bluebirds</i> . See page 2
May 9–11	Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival—see page 6
Saturday, May 10	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 am—Susan Powell, Leader
Saturday, May 10	JRBC Field Trip to James River Park in Richmond and Dutch Gap Conservation Area in Chester—see page 5
May 16–18	VSO Annual Meeting at Mountain Lake, info at www.mountainlakebirding.com
Sunday, May 18	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 am
Wednesday, May 21	WBC Monthly Meeting. See Front Page
Saturday, May 24	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 am—Bill Williams, Leader
Saturday, June 21	VSO Piney Grove Field Trip—info at www.virginiabirds.net
June 27–29	VSO Knob Field Trip—info at www.virginiabirds.net