



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 36, No. 11

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

December 2012



### **President's Corner** By Shirley Devan

Here at Thanksgiving I feel compelled to shout out a big **thank you** to all the Bird Club volunteers who make our club the dynamic, birdy, convivial organization we all love to

be involved with.

First of all, look at the list of names in the left column of page 2. The Board members and Committee Chairs are a hard working bunch who make the Club “go” from week to week and month to month. Thank you to Joe, Fred, Ann, Jennifer, Jeanette, Geoff, Bill, Lee, Barb, and John. In 2013 we welcome Cathy Millar to the Board.

Then there are the members who cheerfully accept when we ask them to lead a bird walk or field trip, write for the newsletter, contribute photos, present a program, bring treats (or tables!) to a meeting, evaluate Nature Camp scholarship applications, manage raffles, donate raffle prizes, and the myriad other tasks that go with supporting our mission of education, and conservation of birds and their habitats. There are about 100 of you who are active in our Club! You know who you are and we are grateful for your efforts and contributions!

I want to extend a special “thank you” to George and Val Copping of Wild Birds Unlimited who continue to support our Club with rebates on members’ purchases! Their generous support makes it possible for the Club to offer additional scholarships each year.

The Club achieved a milestone this year—publication of a book! Not every Bird Club can make that claim. Our founding father, Bill Williams, asked the Club to publish *The Birds of Virginia's Colonial Historic Triangle* and we were proud to do it. Thank you, Bill, for your unending (and continuing) devotion to the definitive study of the bird life of our area.

This newsletter contains a renewal form for your 2013 Membership Dues. As you have done in the past, we hope you will add a few more dollars to your check to support the Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships and the Bill Sheehan and Ruth Beck Ornithological Research Grants. How can

we not be inspired after hearing Audrey Root, recipient of one of the 2012 Nature Camp Scholarships, tell us at the November meeting about her Nature Camp experience. Investing in our youth is an investment in the future!

I look forward to working with you all in 2013 and to another successful year for our Bird Club. Thanks as always for your support and commitment.

### **Welcome to New Members**

Barbara & Richard Hudgins, Bruce & Cecile Glending, Spencer, Melinda, & Miles Quirion—and our first overseas member, Geoff Brunton of Huddersfield, England (Go Terriers!)

### **No Meeting or Field Trip in December**

#### **The 2012 Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count** By Bill Williams

Please put a holly sprig on Sunday, December 16, 2012 to remind yourself that you will participate in the 36th annual Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count. We hope everyone will find some time during the day to be a part of this significantly important citizen science effort. The Christmas Bird Count, initiated in 1900 as a counterplay to a holiday season tradition of seeing how much game could be taken in a single day, has become one of the standards by which international wintering bird population trends and distributions are assessed over time. Rather than removing wildlife, the Christmas bird counts seek to document the diversity and abundance of birdlife in a defined area. Each count encompasses a 15-mile diameter circle, in our case, one that is centered at the Colonial Williamsburg Information Center. The goal for the day is to have as many observers as possible counting every bird of every species within 7.5 miles of the count center. The data are compiled and submitted to the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count website, where it becomes part of an international database, not only for North America but Central and South America too.

Whether you can join us for an hour or so or the whole day on December 16th, your contribution will be exceedingly valuable. The success of the count is based on the numbers of species and how many birds can be found. This includes the common yard and feeder birds, even Rock Pigeons, European

## Officers

<b>President</b>	813-1322
Shirley Devan	<i>sedevan52@cox.net</i>
<b>Vice-President</b> (Programs)	871-3418
Joe Piotrowski	<i>joepiotrowski@cox.net</i>
<b>Vice-President</b> ( <i>The Flyer</i> )	229-4346
Fred Blystone	<i>fmb19481@verizon.net</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	221-6683
Ann Carpenter	<i>gac17D@juno.com</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	229-9764
Jennifer Boag	<i>Jaboag@cox.net</i>
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	221-8506
Geoff Giles	<i>tylerandal2@aol.com</i>
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	565-2597
Jeanette Navia	<i>Jnavia@gmail.com</i>
<b>Past President</b>	259-9559
Bob Long	

## Committee Chairpersons

<b>Field Trips</b>	221-8506
Geoff Giles	<i>tylerandal2@aol.com</i>
<b>Records &amp; Bird Counts</b>	229-1124
Bill Williams	<i>juwil2@wm.edu</i>
<b>Library Liaison</b>	565-6148
Lee Schuster	<i>dljschuster@cox.net</i>
<b>Refreshments</b>	565-0250
Barb Streb	<i>gandbstreb@verizon.net</i>
<b>Membership/Webmaster</b>	565-2597
Jeanette Navia	<i>jnavia@gmail.com</i>
<b>Adopt-A-Highway</b>	566-2615
John Fennell	<i>mafjff07@netzero.net</i>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Open</b>

## Updated Summary of Bird Data

The latest version of Bill Williams' *Summary of Local Bird Data through 2011: Williamsburg, James City County, York County, Hog Island WMA, Surry County* can be downloaded from our website.

## Wild Birds Unlimited

Don't forget that the WBC receives a 5% rebate on the pre-tax amount our members spend at Wild Birds Unlimited in Monticello Marketplace. You do have to let them know that you are a member.

Starlings, and House Sparrows!! With that in mind we hope you will choose to join one of the field teams and/or participate from or near your home. All we ask is that you keep track of how much time that day you devote and, if applicable, how many miles you travel during your birding excursions that day. Feeder watchers, please specify the address of the location where you did your counting so it can be matched to its appropriate count section. This is also an excellent opportunity to engage children in birding!!

The count day will conclude with a 5:00 p.m. compilation to be held at Carrot Tree Kitchens on Jamestown Road. This compilation arrangement is the fifth for our venerable count, a tradition we hope will encourage more participation. Brunswick Stew, mulled cider, and rolls will be warm and ready for consumption by count participants. Carrot Tree will close for business that day at 4:00 p.m. Therefore, count participants are asked to park behind the bakery so that there is no appearance the business is still open.

If you plan to participate in the count please contact Bill Williams at [juwil2@wm.edu](mailto:juwil2@wm.edu) or call 229-1124. Please let Bill know in advance if you also plan to be at the tally. This will help determine how much food needs to be prepared. Tally HO!!

## November Sightings

Report your backyard birds and local sightings to Fred Blystone at 229-4346 or [fmb19481@verizon.net](mailto:fmb19481@verizon.net). If you encounter interesting birds on your vacation/travels, please share!

**November 1.** From George & Rosemarie Harris: "Bethel Beach suffered little damage from Hurricane Sandy. A couple miles away on Old Garden Road, we observed a Green Heron, Great Blue Heron and Greater Egret. Also Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Merlin, Brown-headed and Red-breasted Nuthatches. At North Haven Beach we saw 14 Surf Scoters and 3 Red-necked Loons." Ruth Beck, George Boyles and Brian Taber do the Craney Island survey and come up with 69 species. 3,109 Northern Shovelers, 1 Northern Bobwhite, and 1 Baird's Sandpiper.

**November 2.** From Hayes Williams in Gloucester: "We had a Red-breasted Nuthatch yesterday. They were a frequent visitor years ago but are very scarce now. I saw the Hermit Thrush today that I only heard yesterday."

**November 4.** Bill Williams reports seeing a Black-and-white Warbler at Mainland Farm, which sets a new fall extreme date (formerly October 18th). Geoff Giles, Richard & Barbara Hudgins, Rock Moeslein, John & Marilyn Adair, and George Boyles joined leader Jane Frigo and other birders for the HRBC walk at Newport News Park. A total of 55 species were seen during the morning, including Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

**November 6.** Hayes Williams reports having a pair of Purple Finches and a Winter Wren on the 5th and two Golden-crowned Kinglets today. Shirley Devan's yard list for the day includes Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-shouldered Hawk, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadee, White-throated Sparrow and Carolina Wren.

**November 11.** Gary & Ann Carpenter, while birding in Colonial Heritage saw American Kestrel, Red-shouldered Hawks, Eastern Bluebirds, Song Spar-

rows, Chipping Sparrows, Carolina Wren, Black Vultures, Turkey Vultures, Northern Mockingbirds, Northern Cardinal, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and an Eastern Wood Peewee.

**November 13.** For the fourth fall/winter Bill Williams has a Western Tanager coming to his feeder. This is the first November record. From Florida, Lois Leeth reports that a walk on the beach produced 8 Semipalmated Plover and 7 Sanderlings. In town she saw 6 Turkey Vultures, 2 Wood Storks, 2 Cooper's Hawks and 1 Cattle Egret.

**November 15.** From Shirley Devan "I Spent about 90 minutes observing the feeder station at Williamsburg Botanical Garden this afternoon. I took some bird seed and filled the 3 feeders near the shelter then settled down to see what happened. Eventually observed 21 species from my spot on a picnic bench out in the open.

First to arrive were the Carolina Chickadees. Then the Tufted Titmice, Dark-eyed Juncos, a Brown Thrasher, White-throated Sparrows. After about 45 minutes it was a **busy** place—birds zipping around, back and forth from the wax myrtle to the feeders.

Best bird of the day was the Fox Sparrow—two of them in fact! A year bird for me, per eBird. A Golden-crowned Kinglet zipped around but never landed on the feeders."

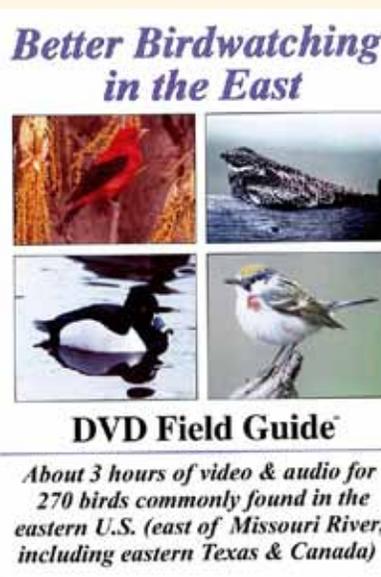
**November 18.** Geoff Giles, George & Virginia Boyles, Marilyn & John Adair, Richard & Barbara Hudgins, and Spencer & Myles Quirion joined leader Jane Frigo and other birders for the HRBC walk in Newport News Park. Fifty-one species were seen, including a FOS male Hooded Merganser, 3 Killdeer, and a House Wren.

**November 22.** From Shirley Devan "on my pre-turkey walk in the neighborhood this morning, I saw a Red-shouldered Hawk perched in the bright sunshine at the top of a very tall tree. Then spotted two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers flitting around at the end of a holly branch eating berries."

**November 29.** The crew (consisting of Ruth Beck, Virginia & George Boyles, Shirley Devan, Brian Taber, Dave Youker and Bill Williams) doing the survey at Craney Island Disposal Area had a good day with 74 species, including 6 Semipalmated Plover, 1 American Avocet, and 58 Least Sandpipers.

## Williamsburg Bird Club Book or DVD Review

By Jeanette Navia



*Better Birdwatching in the East: DVD Field Guide.*

Better Birdwatching, Columbia, MO, 2009. 3 hours. Williamsburg Library call number DVD 598.0974 BET

The Williamsburg Bird Club usually donates \$150 worth of bird-related books each year to the Williamsburg Regional Library. This year, included in the list was a DVD field guide. Hmm, how would a video field

guide work, I wondered. I checked it out to skim through the entries to see how it could be useful. The DVD cover was not slick. This was not a National Geographic or Audubon production. From what I could tell, it was put together by an avid birder/photographer, so I had my doubts about the quality of the photos and the organization of the DVD, thinking a professional team would need to put something like this together.

I was pleasantly surprised, however, at how good it was and how easy it was to use. Joe LaFleur, who studied both Wildlife biology and Communication, is the man behind the DVD. Using standard video recorders and microphones, he recorded hundreds of hours of video and audio of birds in all US states and Canadian provinces over the last twenty or so years. He has created twenty videos, each focusing on a different area of the US and Canada. There are 270 species in this two-disc set of birds in the Eastern US.

The first disk covers loons through woodpeckers; the second covers flycatchers through finches in the older AOU taxonomic order. On screen menus help you navigate. You can go to each individual species or to a specific family group, or you can play the three hours all the way through from beginning to end. There is no narration, just the common name of the species flashed on the screen, followed by several video snippets of a representative individual or group of birds of the species in their usual habitat. Some species get a longer treatment, shown performing several behaviors such as foraging, fly-catching, diving, or flying overhead. For a few, the audio is not available. If there are differences in plumage for the females, juveniles, or breeding vs. non-breeding adults, these

variations are included. While we only get to see and hear each bird for a few seconds, seeing the birds in action, in their usual habitat, really does make a difference.

There are differing qualities of video and sound throughout the DVD, but that's to be expected; over the twenty years LaFleur has been collecting these recordings, video and audio technologies have changed.

While I think having a video field guide is a good idea, especially for a beginner, I suggest you check it out from the library before buying it, just to make sure it's something you'll be able to use. You can view a sample on YouTube here.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-20fdCbbHU>

## Ripples from Across the Pond

by Geoff Brunton

"What's that?" I ask. ... "Yellow-rumped warbler" you reply. "and this one?" ... "Yellow-rumped warbler." "and that?" ... "Yellow-rumped warbler." "This one looks a bit different?" ... "Yellow-rumped warbler." "and again?" ... "Again yellow-rumped warbler" "and that? ... and this? ... and those? ... two ... three ... seven ... eight ... ten?" "Yellow-rumped warblers" "and this one I presume is a yellow-rumped warbler?" "Most certainly." "I think I'm beginning to get to grips with Virginian birding!"

So began my first outing with the Williamsburg Bird Club, under a small group of trees at the Sunset Beach site.

Let me introduce myself and put the appearance of hundreds of Yellow-rumped Warblers into their allocated place in the timeframe of events. I'm Geoff Brunton, new member of the WBC, and I live in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, ENGLAND

... "Ah! I see the significance of the title now.."

and this October I found myself, my partner June (and 2 friends) on our second visit to Virginia. I'd been Googling various Virginia Birdwatching pages when I chanced upon the Williamsburg Bird Club... perfect when you are staying at the Powhatan Resort, Williamsburg, so I read on through various pages... calendar of forth-coming events... 20th October, the Banding station at Kiptopeke. This sounded good and on the Saturday prior to our flight home on Monday and hopefully a great ending to our vacation. When I say great ending to OUR vacation I really mean MINE because I'm the only birdwatcher out of the four of us.

"Well, that's their loss; perhaps they could visit the malls instead."

An e-mail of enquiry was quickly and courteously answered by Shirley... "would be delighted to have you join us"... and also a contact number for Geoff Giles who was willing to spend some of his time introducing me to some more of the local species.

Monday 8th October, twenty five hours after locking our house front door and just twenty five hours of wondering... had I locked the front door?? ... "don'tcha just hate that?"... we find four weary travellers unloading the luggage from the cavernous boot... sorry, trunk, before crashing out on the beds and quickly falling asleep.

Bright and early next morning... well mid morning... oh! alright... late next morning I drew back the curtains... sorry! drapes... and started my Virginia bird-list... Pied-billed Grebe on the small lake at the rear of our accommodation and although this was my first in America I had seen one last year near not far from my home, but in 1997 one turned up on my "local patch" (but that's another story !!).

"Please tell us about it!"

"Well perhaps in another rambling"

Strictly speaking, an uncaring noisy group of Canadians (geese not people) had briefly disturbed my slumber during the morning with their bathing antics, but the Grebe is a much more aesthetically pleasing start so we'll stick with that.

"Exactly. Why spoil a good story for the sake of the truth"

Any road up Sunday finds me waiting in the early morning mists watching a Belted Kingfisher diving from a tree on one of the resort lakes as I await the arrival of Geoff Giles, whom I had spoken to a few days earlier, and he had kindly volunteered some time to show me a selection of birds around Williamsburg.

I suppose if you have a portable DVD player, you could take the DVD into the field to check the identities of birds you see, but it seems best to play it at home to become more familiar with the habitat and behavior of common species before or after going into the field.

## Adopt-a-Highway

John Fennell wants to thank Deb Woodward, Shannon Fennell and Quincy Goldsmith for assisting him in collecting nine sacks of trash on Croaker Road on October 27th.

*“Was there anything in particular you wished to see?”*

As this was my 2nd visit to Williamsburg, I already had a Virginia list of some 70 species, but I told Geoff I'd never seen any of the Nuthatches and I would also love to see an Eastern Meadowlark, it seemed quite a stunning bird without being too flamboyant. So within minutes I was sat in comfort with my bins and a coffee watching Geoff's back garden feeder... sorry again!...backyard feeder. A White-breasted Nuthatch appeared almost immediately...bigger than our Eurasian Nuthatch and with a striking contrast between blacks and whites...superb! Quarter of an hour or so later I noticed a smaller nuthatch, this one with buff underparts...surely it was a Red-breasted? Geoff had momentarily left me alone...was it?... wasn't it?...and of course by the time he returned the suspect had fled. Geoff had not had a Red-breasted on the feeder this Fall but had anticipated their return at any time. I told him what I thought it was and right on cue the bird put in another appearance and identification was confirmed. Two out of the three 'eastern' nuthatches and so easily and comfortably found. The remainder of the day is spent in the York River State Park, where I push Geoff's knowledge to the limit identifying birds (both seen and heard), trees, shrubs, butterflies and seed pods and come face to face with the wonderful and almost unreal Beautyberry. A fantastic, memorable day and such a diversity of mother nature. Family news when I return to the resort is that I'm a Grandad again (2nd time), Phoebe is 5 weeks premature but doing fine.

*“Congratulations but only two of the nuthatches and no meadowlarks, though.”*

“You have to be patient with this birdwatching malarkey. Read on.”

The next Saturday finds me in the same situation except it's earlier, darker and there's no Kingfisher. Geoff arrives and we quickly reach the meeting point where I'm introduced to Shirley and warmly welcomed by her and the other members there. Onward into the dawn to collect more members eager for the anticipated delights of the Eastern Shore and Kiptopeke. This is my 3rd crossing of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and I'm almost besotted by the place. It truly is a fantastic piece of civil engineering and well deserving of its title as one of the modern seven wonders of the world, but to cap it all, not only do you build a monumental bridge but you build a second one alongside it. That's the USA at its best!!

*“Very nice of you to say so.”*

“You're welcome.”

We exit the main road at the Sunset Beach Inn and take the track down to a small stand of mainly pine trees close to the beach. The place is thronged with Yellow-rumped Warblers flitting this way and that catching your eye with every movement, and this is where my opening words fit and where I learn the affectionate name of 'Butter-butts' for these almost sprite-like birds. Still marvelling at the variety of plumages and profusion of Butter-butts, a shout goes up regarding a small flock of what seem to be starlings on the grass in front of the Inn. I set up the scope and to my delight amongst the starlings there are 3 or 4 Meadowlarks, and although I'm looking slightly into the sun I can still see the wonderful bright yellow with those distinct black markings; the field guide illustrations don't do them justice.

*“So you finally found some meadowlarks then”.*

“Yep, told you patience was a virtue.”

After a lengthy study of the Meadowlarks it's into the cars, and following a stop on the Eastern Shore at Oyster we head for 'the dump' or more precisely Cheriton Landfill. This really intrigues me because on my local patch back in the UK we also have a landfill site, but all similarity ends on the word landfill !!

*“Ah we're getting intrigued now.....do carry on.”*

Cheriton has Herons, Egrets, Ibis and waterfowl amongst other things, ours has Gulls, Crows, Gulls, Starlings, Gulls...and did I mention the Gulls!! But this wasn't the thing that really staggered me, it was that we just drove in, convoy style, stopped where we wanted, set up scopes, wandered around, drove around and generally carried on as if we were at a Nature Reserve.

*“Is it different over there then?”*

“Not half”...if you intend to visit our landfill site you need to give them notice (about 4 weeks usually suffices). You need to be a group of a reasonable size (say 8 or more). You park up in the official car park (parking permits may or may not be required, you will be advised). Then your party is ushered into the site offices for a one hour (minimum) induction training session, regarding health and safety issues. Finally you are allowed onto the site...hurrah!! (accompanied at all times

by one or two officials) bedecked with your bins, a high visibility jacket and a hard-ha!! Needless to say we don't make many visits onto the site preferring instead to stay outside and press our scope lenses up against the wire fence.

*"Phew !! I've been through easier sessions with the I.R.S.!!"*

Following the delights of the landfill and its glorious inhabitants we head for the ringing...sorry !! banding station at Kiptopeke and a lunch break.

*"About time, it gets you quite hungry all this fresh air."*

"Yes, I'm feeling a bit peckish too"

Not only our party were feeling hungry so were several Red-breasted Nuthatches who were busy around the feeding station. These birds with their rapid coming and goings kept us entertained during our lunch break especially as there were reports of a Brown-headed Nuthatch in the vicinity. I scanned the feeder earnestly but to no avail, seemed like I'd dipped on this one. But with the prospect of more birds we head off through the trees towards the lake. The weather is by now gloriously warm and spirals of Turkey Vultures fill the skies as I amble around the lake intoxicatingly euphoric with the day, attempting to identify everything that puts in an appearance, a Savannah Sparrow causes a lengthy diversion but it's nailed in the end. Finally back at the car park people are leaving and starting their journeys home, Shirley is leaving before I have chance to thank her for a wonderful day. Just before boarding Geoff's car I have a last look at the bird feeder ...It's there!! ... it's there!! the brown-headed Nuthatch makes its appearance, a fairly simple bird but a stunner nonetheless; the grey, the white and that wonderful chocolate brown head, it even makes it's squeaky toy call...it doesn't get much better than this !!

*"So you've finally got your three Nuthatches?"*

"Almost too good to be true, you couldn't make this stuff up."

But the day's not done and we head for more birds at Magotha Road and Ramp Road; I'm hoping to see a Clapper Rail, or at least hear one. I'm out of luck, this one's a definite dip, but I'm still treated at the end of the day to lots more 'Butter-butts'. A stop on the Bay Bridge just before dusk adds both Turnstone and Sanderling to today's list, before Geoff points the car in the direction of Williamsburg.

An absolutely magnificent day, sites both stunning and almost surreal (the dump), sights (the birds) diverse, beautiful and almost overwhelming (Butter-butts), and finally a great group of people who, if I'm allowed, it would be a pleasure to call friends.

*"Thanks ...but what we all want to know is how many 'lifers?"*

"OK ...Ok. I know you kept asking about my new birds, so here they are. As I've said before, this was my second visit to Virginia so not everything was new, but here follows a list of all the New Virginia birds I saw (in chronological order) together with any suitable comments.

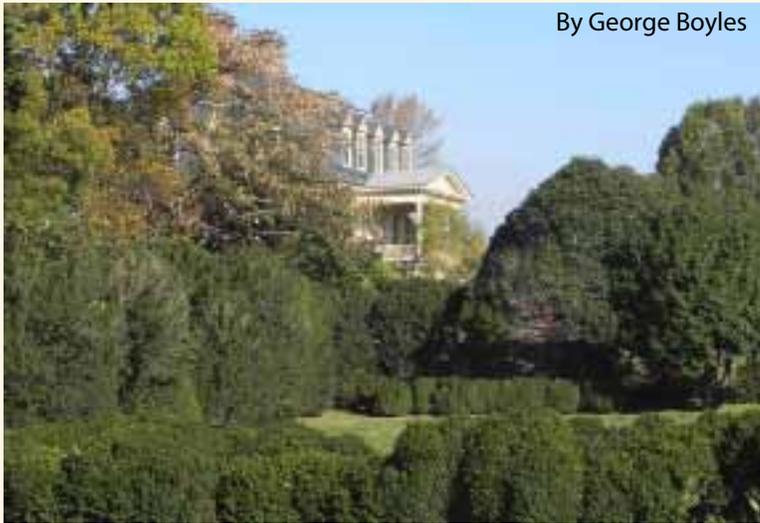
***Editor's Note: Due to space restraints in the paper copy of the newsletter, Geoff's list of new Virginia birds will be in the January issue.***



Editor's Note: This isn't a great photo, but it's of my favorite bird, a Brown Creeper. I can't ever remember seeing one stand still, so I feel very fortunate that I was able to get halfway focused on it before it disappeared to the backside of the tree. This photo was taken on Nicholson Street near the Public Goal.

## WBC November Field Trip & Walks

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



By George Boyles

### A Day of Country Birding

By Tom McCary

Over twenty birders came out to Shirley Plantation on the morning of November 10th for some country bird watching. It was just a perfect fall day: clear skies, no wind, and mild temperatures. Enthusiasm ran high. We enjoyed good camaraderie and profited from some excellent spotting, but I still felt a little disappointed. All in all, it wasn't a very "birdy" day we—had to work for the birds we saw.

Our team pitched in. Cheryl Jacobson assumed the role she played a year ago of meadowlark tracker. Off she went into the polo field to stir those birds up. What great success! A large flock took wing and delighted our group with their scintillating colors. Ku-

dos to Cheryl! Hard by the polo field some folks viewed a tail wagging phoebe and at least a couple of kingfishers. Ring-billed Gulls dominated the James with a few cormorants making reconnaissance. Many of the "usual suspects" flew about the formal gardens.

The second part of our outing was led by Mr. Randy Carter. We journeyed to the Earl Pit, one of the plantation's impoundments. Again we enjoyed excellent conditions, but we did not witness the variety of species we had anticipated. But thanks to the scopes provided by several of our members, the Ruddy Ducks, Green-winged Teal and shovellers appeared in good light and fine feather. A number of late appearing Laughing Gulls flew over the nearby fields, occasionally getting the giggles from the odd antics of



By George Boyles



Randy Carter, our host

By Shirley Devan

their human companions. In company with the ducks a Greater Yellowlegs was discovered by Shirley Devan.

We left in high spirits, enriched by the beauty of a marvelous day in the country at lovely Shirley Plantation. Next time we determined we would find the elusive Horned Larks and White-crowned Sparrows. They're out there somewhere!

Thanks so much to Randy Carter, Geoff Giles, and Shirley Devan for their planning and help.



Shirley Devan took this photo of the birders on the November 10th field trip to Shirley Plantation. Left to right: Barbara Hudgins, Ron Giese, Tom McCary, Cheryl Jacobson, Richard Hudgins, Sara Lewis, Bruce Glendening, Inge Curtis, Geoff Giles, Betty Peterson, Jane Frigo, George Boyles, Dorothy Sharpe, Randy Carter, Virginia Boyles, Cathy Millar, Marilyn Adair, Eileen O'Toole, John Adair, Libby Carmines, Beverly Spannuth, Herb Spannuth. In the photo but hidden behind Tom McCary is Sylvia Giese. Not pictured: Jan Newton

**Bird Walk on November 11th at NQP.**

Leaders Rock Moeslein and Geoff Giles were joined by sixteen other birders for the walk at New Quarter Park. There were a total of 33 species identified during the morning, including a Red-tailed Hawk feeding on a mouse, 4 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch and 2 Hermit Thrushes.



Seated: John Adair, Marilyn Adair, Cheryl Jacobson, David Murphy, Virginia Boyles, Mary Turnbull, Caroline Shoosmith. Standing: George Boyles, John Shoosmith, Rock Moeslein, Jim Corliss, Joyce Lowry, Bill Davis, Dee Davis, Geoff Giles. Not pictured: Spencer, Melinda and Myles Quirion. Photo provided by John Adair

**Bird Walk on November 24th at NQP.**

Bill Williams was joined by 27 other birders for the frosty morning walk in New Quarter Park. Twenty-four species of birds were identified—Shirley Devan wrote that the Red-headed Woodpeckers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers put on a show for the group. She also reported that at least one raccoon was asleep in the “raccon tree”, perhaps two.



Seated: Jessica Spickler, Sharon Plocher, Jennifer Trevino, Joanne Andrews, Nelson Ensley, Betty Peterson, Shirley Devan. Standing: Clifford Spickler, Jan Lockwood, Bill Williams, Bonnie Baffer, Dave Hall, Cathy Millar, Joyce Lowry, Todd Averett, Cathy Bond. Missing from the photo: Cynthia and Bob Long, their son Mike and his wife, and their four daughters. Photo provided by Shirley Devan.

**Photos from Members**



Belmont Apartments on November 11th.



Eastern Bluebird photographed in CW by Fred Blystone.

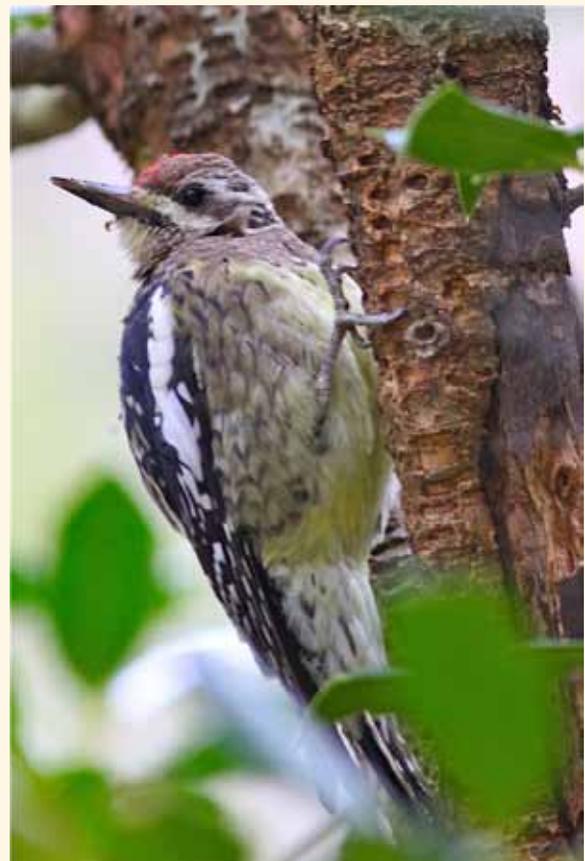
**More Photos from Members**



These two sparrow photos were taken by Inge Curtis during the November 10th field trip to Shirley Plantation.



Red-headed Woodpecker photographed by Inge Curtis



Inge Curtis took this photo of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

## 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 December

November's photo was of Red-tailed Hawk.



## CALENDAR

Sunday, December 8	WBC Bird Walk, NQP, 8 AM, Jim Corliss, Leader
Saturday, December 15	HRBC Christmas Count, Contact Nancy Gruttman-Tyler at <a href="mailto:gruttmantyler@gmail.com">gruttmantyler@gmail.com</a> for more information.
Sunday, December 16	WBC Christmas Bird Count. See front page.
Sunday, December 16	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7AM, Jane Frigo, Leader.
Saturday, December 22	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7AM, Bill Williams, Leader
Saturday, January 19	WBC Boat Trip on the Chesapeake Bay. More information to follow.