



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

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May 2013



President's Corner By Shirley Devan

Two interesting newspaper pieces popped up on my radar screen this week. "What Do the Birders Know" by Brian Kimberling appeared on the Op-Ed page of The New York Times

Sunday, April 21. Several friends sent me the web link. I wonder why?

"A ritual of survival: Mating displays of prairie chickens, a tourist draw, may help save them and their habitat" appeared on page A4 of the Washington Post April 22—not an Op-Ed piece—but a news piece by Juliet Eilperin.

The author of the Op-Ed piece rambled around quite a bit, trying to cram two or three important messages into 13 rather long paragraphs as if The Times had given him a target number of words. Mr. Kimberling's most startling sentence was: "When an elected official is inaugurated today, he or she is etymologically promoted to bird-watcher in chief. Mr. President, your binoculars." I don't think I've encountered "President Obama" and "bird-watcher" in the same sentence, paragraph, or article since he came into office in 2009.

Mr. Kimberling's Amazon.com biography cryptically says he worked two years as a professional birdwatcher before living in the Czech Republic, Turkey, Mexico, and now England. He received a MA in creative writing from Bath Spa University in 2010. And the most important clue of all to explain why his essay appeared in the New York Times April 21—his debut novel is being published in the US April 23. That's how book promotion works these days.

Thankfully he is using his promotional tour to deliver an important message: Birds are moving north in response to climate change. He quotes a study by the National Audubon Society that reports "nearly 60% of 305 bird species found in North America in winter are shifting northward and to higher elevations in response to climate change." And as if we cannot envision how large 60% really is, he asks the reader to imagine the populations of 30 states "becoming disgruntled with forest fires and drought and severe weather events, and seeking out new habitat."

What data did the National Audubon Society use to come up with these numbers? Are you surprised to find out that their massive database of Christmas Bird Count data is the primary source for this conclusion? We should not be surprised. The landscape across America has changed dramatically in 110+ years since the first Christmas Bird Count in 1900. Over 100 years worth of data is revealing. And where did this data come from? Citizen scientists (bird watchers like you!) across the country and across the decades. Increasingly the data provided by citizen scientists are being used by real scientists (folks with PhDs) who are in positions to make policy recommendations and decisions about land use and habitat construction, destruction, and reconstruction.

Grass roots used to be the name for us. We've been promoted to citizen scientists—wear your title proudly! Particularly May 5 when we raise our binoculars for the Bird Club's Spring Bird Count. We need all the birdwatchers out there – either counting your feeder birds or trekking around our count circle counting every bird of every species.

That other newspaper piece? I'll talk about that next time. Perhaps you read it already.

Welcome to New Members

Andy and Marilee Hawkins

May Meeting



At the May meeting, Linda and Robert Scarth, nature photographers from Cedar Rapids, Iowa will present a program titled *Migration: Bird Images on Location*. They both have been photographing the natural world for many years, with special emphasis on the flora and

fauna of the Midwest. In addition to numerous trips in the United States, they have photographed in Australia, Africa, South America, and the Falkland Islands. Most of their work has involved teaching and research. Most recently, before retirement, Robert was a research scientist and statistician for

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Updated Summary of Bird Data

The latest version of Bill Williams' *Summary of Local Bird Data through 2012: 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.

the University of Iowa's Institute of Rural and Environmental Health. Linda served as the reference librarian at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for 15 years, from 1993-2008.

Plan to join us on May 15 at 7:30 PM in Room 150, Millington Hall on the W&M campus. Rock and Sue Moeslein will be providing the refreshments. Don't forget to use your parking permit

May Field Trip

By Geoff Giles

On Saturday, 18 May, we will travel to Beaverdam Park for a bird walk through that great and varied habitat, to be led by Gloucester's own George Harris. This is prime territory for warblers and other birds migrating through and nesting in our region, and no one knows this territory better than George! In addition to an exciting variety of birds commonly found there, the views along the trails we will travel are often breathtaking.

We will meet for carpooling and caravanning to Beaverdam in the Colony Square Shopping Center parking lot (on Jamestown Road, just south of the intersection with Rte 199) and depart at 7:30 AM. For those choosing to meet us at Beaverdam Park in Gloucester, we will plan to arrive at the parking lot inside the main park entrance at about 8:30 AM. This should be a relaxed and pleasant bird walk in some of the most varied and productive habitat in our region. No cost to participate and no need to sign up—just come along! Hope you will plan to join us. For any further info needed or questions, feel free to call or email Geoff Giles at tylerandal2@aol.com or 757-645-8716.

April Sightings

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

April 2. In Gloucester, Hayes & Joyce Williams see their FOS Louisiana Waterthrush.

April 3. Alex & Mike Minarik spent the morning of Alex's birthday with Bob Ake and Tom Charlock birding the Jericho Ditch area of the Great Dismal Swamp. Included in the 43 species of birds that were identified were two Louisiana Waterthrushes, an Ovenbird, a Yellow-throated Warbler, two Prairie Warblers and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

April 4. Ruth Beck, Shirley Devan, Brian Taber and Bill Williams surveyed Craney Island. There were 70 species identified during the trip, including 119 Northern Shovelers, 29 Western Sandpipers and 1 Fox Sparrow.

April 5. Hayes & Joyce Williams report the arrival of a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

April 7. Geoff Giles, Bettye Fields, Roc Moelsein, Bruce Glendening, Richard & Barbara Hudgins, Virginia & George Boyles and Marilyn & John Adair joined leader Jane Frigo and other birders for the HRBC walk in Newport News Park. Spotting of interest among the 68 species identified during the morning were a Black-crowned Night Heron in breeding plumage, a flyover Common Merganser, a Wood Duck with ducklings, a lone Bonaparte's Gull, two Marsh Wrens, a FOS Yellow-throated Warbler and a FOS Purple Martin.



Evening Grosbeak photographed by Shirley Devan.

April 8. Shirley Devan visited a friend in Isle of Wight who was being visited by Evening Grosbeaks. Shirley saw 3 females and 1 male.

April 9. From Brian Taber: "We have only hit the 1500 bird milestone in 5 of our previous 16 hawkwatch years, so an Osprey sailing past for that mark today was quite welcome, as we head for a record year. Diversity was excellent today as well, with a Merlin, 5 American Kestrels, 6 Red-tailed Hawks, 3 Northern Harriers, a Cooper's Hawk and 7 Sharp-shinned Hawks, in addition to Ospreys and Turkey Vultures in the total of 80 birds...so we are now almost at 1600. The previous high season was 1811 in 2011. We also saw Black Vultures and Bald Eagles, though not recorded as migrants today, so the hawk and vulture species total at the site was 11.

As a bonus, while Bill Williams was scoping a hawk, he discovered an immature Glaucous Gull, which sat briefly in the river and then flew upstream."

April 12. Lee Schuster still has her Purple Finches—4 females and 1 male.

April 15. Hayes Williams reports having a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak stopping by for some sunflower seeds.

April 21. Tom Armour has a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird at his feeder. Bonnie Baffer and John & Marilyn Adair joined leader Jane Frigo and 23 other birders for the HRBC walk in Newport News Park. Sixty-one species were identified including FOS Green Heron, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warbler, Chimney Swift, Red-eyed Vireo and an Indigo Bunting.

April 22. Shirley Devan reports a Red-breasted Nuthatch at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden.

April 27. From Alex Minarik: "Tonight Mike and I heard 4 whip-poor-wills between 8 and 8:15 pm on Menzels Rd

from the intersection with Little Creek Dam Rd. and then further down along Menzels."

WBC Picnic at Ruth & Sherwin Beck's House

Our Annual Spring Picnic this year will be Sunday, June 2, 2013. Ruth and Sherwin Beck will graciously open their Barhamsville home and garden to Bird Club members and their families. Time is 4:00 PM.

You should contact Joanne Andrews at 259-0867 or kaiviti37@hotmail.com to let her know you are coming, how many are in your party, and discuss what side dish you might contribute to the feast. Please plan your dish for about 8 servings. We hope to see you there. We always have a great time visiting with each other and enjoying the wonderful birds and wildlife around the Beck's property.

Directions to the Beck's house: Take I-64 west toward Richmond to exit #227 (West Point/Toano). Turn right onto Route 30 North going toward West Point. Follow Route 30 about 2.5 miles to Barhamsville. The center of Barhamsville extends along the road for less than a mile. Look for the Post Office on your right. Then look for a secondary paved road, Route 273 N, and turn right onto Route 273 North. Follow Route 273 N for 1.6 miles. Look for a large sign on the right that says "Hickory Springs, Leyland Tree Farm." Turn right on to the gravel/dirt road at the Tree Farm sign. Stay on this road for about ½ mile. This gravel lane goes into the Beck's driveway. Go through an open red gate (with house # 19231) and continue to the parking area in front of the house. In case you have a problem, the Beck's phone number is 566-8234; Ruth's cell phone number is 757-870-0318.

"Wrens" Wrustle up 75 Species and Funds for VA Living Museum

By Shirley Devan

The White-throated Sparrows had worn out their welcome by the end of Saturday, April 13, the day of the "Birding Cup" to benefit the VA Living Museum. Why were so many of these winter birds still around when the Wren Wrustlers were looking for new migrants? "Another White-throated Sparrow" was uttered way too often during our day of birding.

The rules were fairly simple. Teams should start at 7 PM April 12 and end by 7 PM April 13 and find as many species of birds on the Peninsula as possible. The team with the most species would be honored with their name on the 'Birding Cup' at the Living Museum. The team who raised the most money would receive "a fabulous prize."

Jeanette Navia wrustled up Jan Lockwood and me to become the Wren Wrustlers. Jan Lockwood, who lives in Queens Lake, scouted out her neighborhood, including New Quarter Park, a few days in advance. The Yellow-

crowned Night Heron did not show for her but the Queens Lake Great Horned Owlets were about 10 days from fledging. So we felt we had a better than even chance of “ticking” them off our list for the competition.



The Wren Wrustlers—Jeanette Navia, Shirley Devan and Jan Lockwood. Photo provided by Jeanette Navia

So it was that on Friday, April 12, at 6:50 PM, Jan, Jeanette and I were stationed near East Queens Drive with my spotting scope trained on the two Great Horned Owlets. With one eye on the birds and one eye on the clock, at the stroke of 7 PM, the competition began and our first bird was Great Horned Owl[ets]. Only about an hour of daylight remained so the three of us trekked down to Queen's Creek and Queen's Lake. Just barely enough light remained for us to see the adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron by a bench at the marina. While standing on the dam across the lake, Jan and Jeanette heard a Clapper Rail. According to the rules, each person had to observe the bird at some point in the 24-hour period. I would have to try again Saturday morning for the Clapper. Grrrr.

We felt good about our 23 species by 8 PM Friday night and eagerly looked forward to a day in the field Saturday.

Jeanette and I arrived at Jan's house by 7:15 Saturday to tick off the Ruby-throated Hummingbird she had seen the day before. No luck on the hummer that early, but we did find a Northern Flicker on top of a snag behind her house. Then off to New Quarter Park to meet up with our Williamsburg competition, the Bird Dogs: Geoff Giles, Jim Corliss, Marilyn Adair, and John Adair. The rules stated that we could not get any assistance from any other birders during the 24-hour competition so we headed off on our own and found 17 species fairly quickly—the usual NQP suspects, including a Red-headed Woodpecker!

Back to Jan's house for a rest stop and cold water before hitting the road. We lurked around the front yard with our eyes on her two hummingbird feeders and a 20-minute wait rewarded us with a stunning male Ruby-throated Hummingbird, one of the first in the area. Before heading back to Queen's Lake, we added Cooper's Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-tailed Hawk, and Pine Warbler to our list.

Back to Queen's Lake for daylight viewing! An Eastern Kingbird—just arrived from the south—perched very conveniently by the road as we headed to the dam. An unexpected surprise for sure. Determined to get that Clapper Rail again, we stalked the marsh at Queen's Creek. Jan and I just happened to see the rail quickly fly about 10 feet in the marsh. Now we could add the bird to our list even though the three of us did not observe it at the same time.

We set the scope to look for ducks on Queens Lake. Finally I found a pair of Wood Ducks swimming toward a dock. Jeanette was able to see the ducks before they disappeared behind the dock but Jan did not! Arrghhh! We waited for the ducks to swim out but time was flying and we had to move on. Perhaps we would see Wood Ducks at Newport News Park.

Next stop was Felgates Creek on the Colonial Parkway where a few winter ducks added to our list: Horned Grebes and Ruddy Ducks (both in breeding plumage), plus Buffleheads, Royal Terns and Herring Gulls.

So we arrived at Newport News Park at 1:50 PM with 57 species. Still five+ hours left. We headed off on the White Oak Trail to reach the Swamp Bridge. The trail was very quiet and we were disappointed to pick up only seven new species. However, we were particularly proud to add Palm Warbler to our list, two of them observed foraging on the roadside just as we approached the car to leave. We did find a Song Sparrow along the trail but those darned White-throated Sparrows were everywhere. We just could not convince ourselves that one might be a Swamp Sparrow!

The usually ubiquitous Mute Swans on the water at Newport News played hide and seek for us. They were swimming in the back of the lake and I was able to get the scope on one swan so that Jan could see it before it swam out of view. Jeanette missed it but we felt sure we would get one before the day was out.

All along I had counted on Grandview Beach to add shore birds to our list. When we arrived there at 4:35 we walked into a stiff wind from the east and a falling tide. Two other Birding Cup teams had the same idea and all of us were disappointed. We did tick off a Brown Pelican, Common Loon, Northern Gannet and Killdeer but no other shore birds presented themselves. On the walk back to the car, Jan

and I spotted a Common Yellowthroat fly across the path, but Jeanette missed it...so we could not add it to our list.

Tempus fugit! We had 73 species and it was clear that we would not hit our target of 100 species. Arrghhh. But I had a Black-crowned Night Heron in my back pocket! I navigated while Jan drove to Ridgeway Park in Hampton. Most of this park is devoted to a gated dog walk area but a canal/creek surrounds three sides. This park has been famous in the past for the wintering Eurasian Wigeon but the bird has not been there for the last couple of years. But a Black-crowned Night Heron was still there! A Green Heron also flushed from the sideline to bring our list to 75. We were excited when we spotted about a dozen large white birds at the other end of the creek and felt sure they were Mute Swans. But the spotting scope revealed they were domestic geese (yuk!) and we missed adding Mute Swan to our total.

When we arrived at the VA Living Museum for the final tally, we let out a big “whew.” I checked my pedometer – seven miles walking for each of us Saturday. Jan’s odometer registered 74 driving miles. The Museum graciously provided a light supper plus lemonade and iced tea! Oh yes...chocolate covered strawberries too!

After we rehydrated ourselves and wolfed down some carbs, Rock Moeslein, the Museum’s Birding Cup organizer “go-to” guy, tallied the birds. He asked each team to relate a highlight from their day in the field. Rock revealed that the Birding Cup competition had been over a year in the making.

The other teams were the Denbigh Bird Club, the Peninsula Master Naturalists Plucky Peregrines, the Eagle Eyes, plus the Bird Dogs, another Williamsburg Bird Club team. The five teams observed 123 species over the 24-hour period.



The Bird Dogs—John Adair, Marilyn Adair, Jim Corliss, and Geoff Giles.
Photo provided by Rock Moeslein

The winning team, Eagle Eyes, found 97 species for the day. They credited their success to extensive preview trips in the days ahead of the count. Their name will be engraved on the “Birding Cup” that will live at the museum. The Bird Dogs came in second with 95 species. The Wren Wrustlers found 75 species. The Denbigh Birders tallied 67 species and the Plucky Peregrines found 70 species.

The five teams raised over \$2025 for the Museum, and local supporters contributed over \$1700 in donated items. The Wren Wrustlers raised the most of the five teams and received a prize as well – a pair of Eagle Optics 8x42 binoculars. We’ll raffle these binocs at the May Bird Club meeting to raise funds for our scholarships.

Many thanks to all who donated for the Wrustlers and more importantly, for the VA Living Museum. We can’t wait until next year. Form a team and join the fun!

Birding the Sarasota Area

Gary and Ann Carpenter

We birded in Sarasota, Florida in mid-April of this year. If anyone should find themselves in west central Florida, a day or two exploration of the Sarasota area can be very rewarding, bird-wise. On April 18 we decided to bird the celebrated Celery Fields just east of Sarasota and Interstate 75. We had been there once before several years ago and decided to try it again, instead of Myakka River State Park which we have visited just about every year since we have been traveling to Florida. The Celery Fields were once known for their truck gardens and, as you might guess, for the predominance of celery that was grown there. The fields are now a 300 acre flood retention and wetlands area owned by the city of Sarasota with a growing reputation as an excellent birding spot.

We arrived at the main parking lot off of Palmer Boulevard and were pleasantly surprised to find that the Sarasota Audubon Society had a volunteer at the board walk gazebo across the street within a picturesque wetlands pond. We were told by “Owen” (whom we had met a number of years previously in Myakka River) that he was there every Thursday and that the gazebo had an Audubon Society volunteer every day. . . . except in the summer. He also informed us that Least Bitterns had been spotted near the gazebo in the past number of days. Alas, no Least Bitterns made their appearance while Ann and I were there. But we did have a somewhat successful hour and half there and, among others we spotted: Wood Storks; Black-bellied Whistling Ducks; Glossy and White Ibis; Great Blue, Tri-colored, and Green Herons; a Red-shouldered Hawk; American Kestrel; Northern Harrier; Ospreys (by the dozens); Double-crested Cormorants; Anhingas; Blue-winged Teal; Least Terns; Limpkins (including one with a chick); Fish Crows and Dowitchers. At other nearby ponds we

also spotted: White Pelicans, Black Skimmers, Greater Yellowlegs; Sandhill Cranes, Black-necked Stilts, a Common Ground Dove; Eurasian Collared Doves, and we heard a Marsh Wren. While we did not see them, Owen informed us that the Celery Fields, in the winter season, held an abundance of warblers and ducks.

The next day, when we were thwarted from a bike ride by a flat tire, we birded a spot within Sarasota called Red Bug Slough that is just off Beneva Road. While it seemed at first to be unproductive we hiked around its major pond and down a couple of its canals and ended up spotting Wood Ducks, Red-bellied and a Piliated Woodpecker; Blue Jays; Little Blue Herons; a Great-crested Flycatcher; Carolina Wren and Mottled Ducks. While biking on the Waterfront Trail near Venice, we also spotted Scrub Jays and an American Bald Eagle.

Although it was in the afternoon, we also birded Siesta Key Beach and there we saw Royal, Least and Forsters Terns; Willets, Rudy Turnstones, Brown Pelicans and Laughing, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls.

While we were at the Celery Fields we purchased a Sarasota Audubon Society booklet called, *Birding Hotspots in Sarasota and Manatee Counties*. If you plan to visit the Sarasota area we would be glad to let you have a look at this very helpful book in order that you might better plan your birding experience.

Costa Rica Trip

By Shirley Devan

(continued from April Flyer)

Highlights:

Scarlet Macaw, one of the must-see birds in Costa Rica, was on its appointed spot at the Tarcoles River. We saw a pair very well in the trees next to the parking lot for the crocodile-spotting cruise. Later we saw four fly across the river at a distance. Instead of being a crocodile tour, we enjoyed a birding tour for an hour on the river. High tide left very little space for the crocs to sun themselves, but the birds made up for the lack of crocs. Quite a few “big birds” were up in the trees for all to see: Brown Pelicans, Wood Storks, Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbills, Boat-billed Herons (about a dozen!), a Mangrove Black Hawk, and a Neotropic Cormorant. We found Whimbrels, Willets, Black-necked Stilts, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks on the river's edge. Thirty-three species total in an hour boat tour at high tide. Only two crocodiles. Everyone on our tour was a birdwatcher by the end! Lots of oohs and aahs even from those without binoculars. Some people spend days birding on this river and now I know why.



Keel-billed Toucan

Photo by Shirley Devan

Disappointments:

None of the hotels or lodges had hummingbird feeders! I didn't expect the urban hotels to provide such but I was disappointed that Laguna Lodge at Tortuguero National Park did not set out hummingbird feeders for the birds and the visitors to enjoy.

Arenal Hanging Bridges would have been spectacular if we could have spent a day exploring the rain forest. Instead we had only 90 minutes to walk the bridges and hope to see some birds and wildlife. Our young guide (just graduated from high school) did point out a Keel-billed Toucan very close to one of the bridges and most got good photos. We left wanting more!

Tourism is Costa Rica's main industry. So I should not have been surprised that hotel properties were scrubbed and manicured within an inch of their lives for their North American guests. Since we were not on a “birding” tour, we had to rely on the edges and ungroomed backsides of properties to find birds on our own. It was very rewarding experience to find and identify birds without assistance. I tallied over 80 species of birds – not many for a week in Costa Rica by most standards but very satisfying for a non-birding trip. Now I just need to plan a “birding” trip soon!

A Bird Outing on the Taskinas Trail

By Gary Carpenter

On a beautiful Saturday morning in late April, Ann and I drove to York River State Park and ventured onto the new Taskinas Trail....well, at least, the refurbished Taskinas Trail. We are happy to report that the new parts of the trail were in good shape, followed the contour lines of the topography nicely and provided a number of new or re-built overlooks and benches along the way. There are a number of low spots over small wet ravines that are covered only by ground hugging boardwalks and very short bridges inlaid with cobblestones that will probably render the trail unwalkable after any good rain. But on a nice day, this is a fun hike on a good birding trail.

Prior to getting to the trail head we checked out the “Eagle Tree” which is easily viewed from the pagoda that overlooks the York and is on the left of (as you approach) the Visitor’s Center. Sure enough there was a majestic Bald Eagle surveying the river from his perch on the stand-out dead tree that is across the mouth of Taskinas Creek. Walking to the trail head we spotted Eastern Bluebirds, White-throated Sparrows, Tufted Titmice, a Summer Tanager, a Blue Jay, a Great Blue Heron, and a number of American Goldfinch and Chipping Sparrows. While first on the trail we were disappointed by what seemed to be a lack of birds, but as we got into the ravine bottoms we started hearing a number of them and we spotted: Carolina Wren, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, and a Worm-eating Warbler. Along the trail we also saw Red Winged Blackbirds, a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, an Ovenbird, an Osprey on a nest with a chick, a Pine Warbler, and we heard both Yellow-throated and White-eyed Vireos and a Great Crested Flycatcher. While in the Park we also saw “the usual suspects” including Black and Turkey Vultures, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Gray Catbirds, Mourning Doves, Carolina Wrens, Carolina Chickadees, and American Crows.

A great spring morning at York River.

WBC April Walks & Field Trip

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



Front Row (Left to Right): Jason Lee, Marilyn Adair, Joyce Lowry, Joanne Andrews, Virginia Boyles, George Boyles, Sharon Falconer, John Adair. Back Row (Left to Right): Andy Hawkins, Jim Corliss, Cathy Bond, Terry Bond, Nelson Ensley, Susan Nordholm, Geoff Giles, and Bill Bay.

Photo provided by John Adair

Bird Walk on April 13th at NQP

Fifteen birders joined leader Jim Corliss for the April 13th walk at New Quarter Park. There were 46 species identified during the morning, including 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 Cooper’s Hawk, 2 Red-shouldered Hawks, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, 2 Yellow-throated Warblers and 4 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.



Left to right: Melinda Quirion, Spencer Quirion, Joanne Andrews, Jan Lockwood, Cathy Millar, Jeanette Navia, Inge Curtis, Jessica Spickler, Miles Quirion, Geoff Giles, Dan Cristol, Graham Gardener, Corky Cutright, Sylvia Giese, Joyce Lowry, Kelly Watson, Ron Giese, Mary Mainous, and Greg Tito. Not in photo: Sharon Falconer, Cathleen Campbell, Rock Moeslein.

Photo by Shirley Devan

Field Trip to the Great Dismal Swamp on April 20

By Shirley Devan

All, good news for the Dismal Swamp trip: no rain. But no sun either. Also, lots of leaves for the birds to hide behind. We heard many birds and saw some!

Just about everyone got good looks at one of the many Prairie Warblers singing all morning. Also White-eyed Vireos were singing as well. One came to the fore and gave us good looks. The sought-after Swainson's Warbler was its usual "elusive" self—singing like crazy but hiding in the low brush and tangles. A few lucky folks in the front of the group observed the Swainson's fly across the path. Other warblers seen (sometimes) and heard (and announced) by our leader, Dr. Dan Cristol of W&M: Hooded Warbler,

Ovenbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Great-crested Flycatcher (seen by most), White-throated Sparrow, Eastern Towhee (seen by most), Gray Catbird, Common Yellowthroat, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture. Many thanks to Dan Cristol for leading our trip and helping us get on the birds.

White-eyed Vireo

Photo by Inge Curtis



Eastern Towhee

Photo by Inge Curtis



Bird Walk on April 27th at NQP

Will have news of this bird walk in the next newsletter.

Bird ID Photos

By Joe Piotrowski

This feature is only on the website and in the electronic version of *The Flyer*. The answer to this month's "puzzle" will be given in the next electronic newsletter, as well as on the website.



Photo for May

April's photo was of a Carolina Wren.



CALENDAR

Saturday, May 4	Adopt-a-Highway. Contact John Fennell at 566-2615 or mafjif07@netzero.net
Sunday, May 5	WBC Spring Bird Count. Contact Bill Williams at billwilliams154@gmail.com or 229-1124
Thursday, May 9	HRBC Monthly Meeting, www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org for more information
Saturday, May 11	WBC Bird Walk, NQP, 8 AM, Bill Williams, Leader.
Saturday, May 11	HRBC Field Trip to the Richmond's Belle Isle & James River Park System. Contact Tom Charlock at (757-599-3418) or e-mail TomCharlock@gmail.com for more information..
Wednesday, May 15	WBC Monthly Meeting. See Front Page.
Saturday, May 18	WBC Field Trip to Beaverdam Park in Gloucester County. See Page 2 for information
Sunday, May 19	HRBC Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7AM, Jane Frigo, Leader.
Saturday, May 25	WBC Bird Walk, NQP, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader.
Sunday, June 2	WBC Picnic at the Beck's. See Page 3 for further information.
Sunday, June 2	HRBC Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, June 8	WBC Bird Walk, NQP, 8 AM
Sunday, June 16	HRBC Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, June 22	WBC Bird Walk, NQP, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader.