



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 37, No. 3

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

March 2013



### President's Corner By Shirley Devan

Finally, February is over. For me it seems like the longest month. March and April are up next with tons of chances to enjoy spring migration and the beginning of nesting season for our songbirds. Take advantage of our local birding opportunities—New Quarter Park twice a month and Newport News Park for our March 16 Field Trip. We love to welcome new and beginning birders. Remember, we were all new birders at some point!

Make plans to get up to New Kent Forestry Center March 23 for early bird walks led by Bird Club members Geoff Giles and Jim Corliss. This location is not usually open to the public and an opportunity to bird around up there is a welcome one.

Make sure you've sent in your registration for the VSO Annual Conference in Leesburg, VA April 26–28. (See more info in another part of this newsletter.) Even in crowded northern Virginia, there are many “birdy” spots for field trips: Algonkian Regional Park, Balls Bluff, Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, Beagle Institute, Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, Dulles Greenway Wetlands Mitigation Project, plus more. VSO President will lead a bird walk for beginners!

Then polish up your binocs for the Bird Club's Spring Bird Count Sunday, May 5. Save that date on your calendar because we need you either at your feeder or out in the field. More info later about this important event in our Club's year.

### Welcome to New Members

Penny Nash, Lester Lawrence and Pattie Ralabate

### March Meeting

During the late winter of 2012, Joe Piotrowski and his wife Anita joined their daughter Erika in the Dominican Republic for a week. Erika was a junior at Virginia Tech in Natural Resources and she was doing a semester abroad. Fortunately the course she was taking was Ornithology and was being taught by Dr. Jerry Via. Joe was invited on the daily bird

walks and his program will be about what he saw during their week there.



Joe is a graduate of Notre Dame and the University of Wisconsin and received an MD from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia. He is an attending Vascular Surgeon for Riverside Regional Medical Center and is an avid amateur photographer and birdwatcher.

Plan to join us on March 20th at 7:30 PM in **Room 150, Millington Hall**, on the W&M campus. Kathy Klausner and Jennifer Boag will be providing the refreshments.

**Don't forget to use your parking permit.**

### March Field Trip

By Geoff Giles

Seen a Great Horned Owl lately? Seen six species of raptor on one bird walk? Jane Frigo led a group that did, in Newport News Park mid-March of last year. Almost all of the winter birds were still here and some spring arrivals were popping up. The group saw more than sixty species in beautiful unspoiled habitat! Let's see if we can top their mark!!

Newport News park is huge (second only to Central Park in NYC in size for municipal parks) and offers lake, woods, ponds, meadow, marsh and swamp—all easily accessible with rest room stops along the way. No one knows it better than Jane Frigo (my mentor and hero!) and Jane will lead WBC to the best birds!

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## 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.

March 2013



We will start our walk at 8 AM on Saturday, 16 March, from the parking lot near the Lake behind the Ranger Station. Please join us for a two hour walk, or pack a lunch and stay longer to continue on to the swamp bridge, where some cool species are virtually guaranteed. On recent walks a Virginia Rail and a screech owl

have entertained Jane's walks at the swamp bridge. How cool is that?!!

Enter the park from Rte 143, passing the NN Visitors Info Center, and continue about 100 yards to turn left and pass the Ranger Station to find our rally point in the large parking lot. The walk will start at 8. For those wishing to carpool from Williamsburg, we will meet at the Colony Square Shopping Center parking lot (just south of 199 on Jamestown Road) and carpool/caravan, departing for Newport News at 0730 AM.

This one is guaranteed to be a super day's birding, so we hope you will join us!!! For any further info, please feel free to call or email Geoff Giles at [tylerandal2@aol.com](mailto:tylerandal2@aol.com) or 757-645-8716. Hope to see you there!!

## February 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!

**February 2-3.** Todd Averett was at Assateague Island, and among the 18 species of birds he and his brother-in-law identified were Northern Shovelers, Marble Godwits, Gadwall, and American Avocets.

**February 3.** Rock Moeslein, Fred Blystone, and Geoff Giles joined several other birders and leader Jane Frigo for the HRBC walk in Newport News Park. Jane reports "the rising sun gave a spectacular glow to a soaring Bald Eagle as well as illuminating the trees bordering the reservoir. Ring-necked Ducks were in abundance. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks at the stable also presented a memorable sighting. All expected woodpeckers were identified, as well as nuthatches. Both Tundra and Mute Swans were seen. Misses included owls and American Goldfinches. The Virginia Rail was heard again at the Swamp Bridge." A total of 60 species were identified during the morning.

**February 9.** Brian Taber reports that the 17th consecutive College Creek Hawkwatch began, with 25 Turkey Vultures recorded crossing the James River despite a cold and stiff northwest wind.

**February 10.** From Bill Williams: "Bruce Peterjohn was able to band one imm. female Rufous Hummingbird at a home near K-Mart this morning. Turns out that 2 birds had been around some time ago, but only one in recent weeks. The captured bird had been present since 25 Nov 2012. It was molting and very healthy, Bruce said.

His second venture to Governor's Land to capture the banded female Ruby-throated Hummingbird was unsuccessful. She avoids going in to the trap."

**February 14.** Ruth Beck, Virginia & George Boyles, Alex Minark, Dave Youker, Brian Taber, Bob Ake, and Dan Cristol and his students surveyed Craney Island. There were 65 species identified during the trip, including 900 Canvas-back, 248 Horned Grebe, 150 Northern Gannet, a American Avocet and 2 Osprey.

**February 15–18.** Bart and Chandi Singer were lucky enough to have a Purple Finch show up for the Great Backyard Bird Count. Bill Williams' Western Tanager was present for the GBBC, as was another one in Seaford.



Purple Finch—Photo sent in by Bart & Chandi Singer

**February 16.** Deborah Wagner sent in an e-mail to Bill Williams (and a photo) of a Yellow-breasted Chat that had been visiting her Ford's Colony home for several weeks.



Yellow-breasted Chat

Photo by Deborah Wagner

**February 17.** Richard Hudgins and John Adair joined leader Jane Frigo and a number of other birders for a frigid and windy HRBC bird walk at Newport News Park. A total of 45 species were recorded during the shortened walk.

**February 18.** Mary Anne & John Fennel report having for the first time ever in their yard a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

on their suet feeder—just in time for the GBBC, as well as several Pine Siskins and Purple Finches. They also had a Red-breasted Nuthatch for a week, but it left before the GBBC. Shirley Devan spent a couple of hours at James Island and came up with 25 species, including 46 Green-winged Teal and two-year birds, a Swamp Sparrow and 2 Gray Catbirds.

**February 19.** From Brian Taber: “College Creek Hawkwatch recorded its first Osprey of the season today, about a week or so early...and also a surprise American Bittern crossing the James River to Hog Island, a first for me at the site. Hundreds of ducks and geese were moving around over Hog Island and at least 15 Bald Eagles were seen, though none were judged to be migrating.”

**February 24.** Bill Williams and Mitchell Byrd counted 27 Razorbills off of Back Bay NWR.

**February 25.** During her morning run in Stonehouse neighborhood, Mary Meier observed 9 species including a Bald Eagle, 6 Eastern Bluebirds, a Pileated Woodpecker, and a Northern Harrier. Shirley Devan birded around the Warhill Sports Complex and came up with 18 species including 3 American Woodcock that started their matching flight displays around 6:20 PM.

**February 26.** Hayes and Joyce Williams checked for birds on the York River at Gloucester Point. Along with a few Common Loons, lots of Ruddy Ducks, and large rafts of scaup, they found at least 7 Northern Gannets flying around and diving just down river of the bridge. Kathi Messtayer reports a Brown Creeper in her back yard.

**February 27.** Shirley Devan spent a couple of hours at Chickahominy Riverfront Park and came up with 23 species, including 13 Wilson Snipe.

**February 9–28.** Brian Taber reports the second best February in the 17 years of the College Creek Hawkwatch. In 13 days of observation there were 216 birds, which came out to about 10 birds per hour average. Seven species have been seen migrating so far.

**February 28.** Ruth Beck, Virginia & George Boyles, Alex Minark, Dave Youker, Bill Williams, and Brian Taber surveyed Craney Island. There were 67 species identified during the trip, including 1,061 Ruddy Ducks, 4 Osprey, 62 Least Sandpipers, and 1 Peregrine Falcon.

## VSO Out Banks Field Trip

By Virginia Boyles

The VSO trip to the Outer Banks of NC on Feb. 1–3, 2013, was enjoyed by 80 birders, including JMU professor Zig Ziegenfus and 10 students. The days were cool and windy with lots of sunshine, and a host of special birds. The “experts” claimed there was an Iceland Gull behind the hotel that I missed, though I observed many Bonaparte's Gulls. There were pods of dolphins each day in the ocean behind the hotel, and whale sightings included plumes of spray, with two tails raised above the surface as we looked off our balcony. On Sat. an ocean sunfish created a buzz among the birders when it washed up on the beach.



Photo by George Boyles

Friday at Lake Mattamuskeet, Lee Adams pointed out the Black-crowned Night-Herons and identified a glorious male Wood Duck swimming in the canal in front of the houses near the visitor's center. No question what he was! Meredith and Lee Bell led a second group around the lake. The eagles and Northern Harriers were flushing ducks, and a hawk caught one of the plentiful American Coots. He held it underwater, where the bird flapped and tried to escape. Finally it did get away from the hawk while underwater, and neither bird nor people could find it again. At the lake overlook, a Common Yellowthroat checked us out. Elsewhere, I saw lots of White Pelicans, Snowy Egrets, Tundra Swans, Snow Geese, American Avocets, Tricolored Herons, White Ibis, Northern Gannets, Common and

Red-throated Loons, a distant flock of Black Scoters, a Clapper Rail, Little Blue Heron, American Kestrels, an Orange-crowned and several Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers, multiple duck species, and 25+ Western Willets. They were everywhere! Bill Akers, our Pea Island trip leader on Saturday, pointed out an American Bittern beside the road as we drove out of town, and identified a light sparrow as an Ipswich at Oregon Inlet. A group of American Oystercatchers huddled on a sandbar beyond the bridge. Jerry Via led another group of birders on Saturday. The “throw away” birds of the weekend were Northern Pintails, especially behind Bodie Island Lighthouse. Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, and Tundra Swans were plentiful there, also.



Northern Pintail

Photo by George Boyles

The weather held on Sunday for the trip to Alligator River on the way home, led by Meredith and Lee Bell, where a Merlin was the star of the day, along with other raptors, Rusty Blackbirds, and Wilson's Snipes. The weekend was a great success, with a tally of 131 species.



Bodie Observation Ramp

Photo by George Boyles



Photo by John Adair

## “Bluebirds in Our Gardens” With Shirley Devan

By Nancy Barnhart Photos supplied by Helen Hamilton



It was standing room only at Freedom Park, Saturday, February 16, 2013, as Shirley Devan gave a fact-filled and fun workshop on Bluebirds in Our Gardens. Shirley is the President of the Williamsburg Bird Club, a Certified Master Naturalist, and a recipient of one of six 2012 Community Impact Awards, receiving the award in the category of Environment. She spoke to an overflowing room of more than 70 participants. Using slides, various displays including a bluebird box and models of eggs, a 10 minute video of time-lapsed photography inside a bluebird box, and her own wealth of knowledge, she discussed all things bluebird. There were members of the Freedom Park Bluebird Trail monitoring team in attendance who gave a brief summary of the 2012 bluebird season, the first in Freedom Park. They were happy to

report a successful first season that included 19 bluebird boxes, which resulted in 51 fledged bluebirds and 14 fledged Carolina chickadees. The Freedom Park Bluebird Trail includes several boxes in the Botanical Garden, one of which produced the most bluebirds of any box last year. Going into the 2013, season the bluebird trail at Freedom Park will include a total of 26



Shirley with Eastern Bluebird Egg

boxes to be monitored weekly throughout the spring and summer. Monitoring reports are submitted to the Virginia Bluebird Society and the North American Bluebird Society as one of a number of Citizen Science projects involving the Historic Rivers Chapter of Master Naturalists.

There were many questions, ideas, and much lively discussion among the workshop participants. Shirley brought a number of handouts which included directions for building your own bluebird box and one for constructing a predator guard for the box. Following Shirley's presentation a number of folks ventured out into the chilly drizzle to observe some of the trail boxes and see up close the placement of boxes and the use of predator guards. Many thanks go out to the Williamsburg Botanical Garden and the staff at Freedom Park from the Master Naturalists for their help and support in establishing the bluebird trail.

## 2013 Virginia Society of Ornithologists Annual Meeting: Leesburg, Virginia, April 26–28

From VSO Website

This year's Annual Meeting on April 26–28 is rapidly approaching. Hosted by the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, the weekend will include two great programs, exhibits, vendors, papers presentations, and of course—great birding! Spring birding in the northern Piedmont offers local specialties, unexpected rarities as well as migrants amidst beautiful spring wildflowers in a wide range of habitats in close proximity.

At 6 PM on Friday evening there will be a social mixer with light plates and a cash bar. After a brief business meeting at 7 PM, three past Presidents of the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society will present, "Identifying Warblers, the Jewels of the Eastern Forest". This presentation will cover nearly every warbler species that breeds in or migrates through Maryland and Virginia. Identification pointers and songs of birds in spring are emphasized. On Saturday morning they will lead a bird walk in nearby Maryland along the Potomac River.

Prior to the banquet on Saturday evening there will be a reception with light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar where people will be able to meet the banquet speaker, Julie Zick-efoose. Julie is a widely published natural history writer and artist. Her observations on the natural history and behavior of birds are derived from more than three decades of experience in the field and as a wildlife rehabilitator. Her most recently published book, *The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds*, is about the unexpected mental and emotional capacities of birds, especially songbirds.

And of course, there will be many field trips Friday, Saturday, and Sunday! The region includes a number of hot spots, including the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, the Dulles Greenway Wetlands, Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, Algonkian Regional Park, Bles Park, Sky Meadows, Occoquan National Wildlife Refuge, and more.

Complete information can be found at the VSO website [www.virginiabirds.net/VSO-2013-Annual-Meeting.html](http://www.virginiabirds.net/VSO-2013-Annual-Meeting.html).

### Coming Attractions

In next month's newsletter there will be an article by Shirley Devan about the trip she and Steve recently took to Costa Rica. There will also be information from Bill Williams about the club's Spring Bird Count that's coming up on May 5th. **Save the date.** Also looking forward to Jeanette Navia's latest book review.

Do you have an article to contribute?

### Photos from Members



This Hermit Thrush was photographed by Bill Williams.



George Boyles took this Surf Scoter photo at Craney Island on February 14th.



The Rappahannock Chapter  
of the  
**Society of American Foresters**  
*Growing better all the time*

**Presents a FREE .....**



Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
at the  
Virginia Department of Forestry's  
New Kent Forestry Center  
11301 Pocahontas Trail,  
Providence Forge, Va. 23140  
Rain or Shine

- 7:00 a.m. Guided Birding Trip (led by Williamsburg Bird Club)
- 10:00 a.m. Guided Nature Hikes start every half hour until 2:00 p.m.
- 10:00 a.m. Exhibits Open and Free Seedlings Available. Choose from baldcypress, flowering dogwood, eastern redbud, persimmon and Chickasaw plum.

Hiking trails open at 7 a.m. and maps will be available at the Education Center.

Forestry Merit Badge program (partial) available for Boy Scouts. Contact Dave Lauthers to register at [davemmc2000@yahoo.com](mailto:davemmc2000@yahoo.com) or 757-753-8309.

Exhibits will include:

- “Goods from the Woods” • Firewise Community Information • Leave No Trace
- Wildlife Identification with the Virginia Living Museum
- American Tree Farm System<sup>®</sup> Information • Virginia Waterfowlers' Association
- Papermaking • Leaf Rubbing • Animal Track Stamping

**Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the day with us.**

Questions? Contact Lisa Deaton at 804-966-2201 or [lisa.deaton@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:lisa.deaton@dof.virginia.gov)



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## Birding Cup Challenge April 12-13

The Virginia Living Museum's new Birding Cup event encourages people to go outdoors, breathe in fresh air, walk, look and listen throughout the Peninsula's wild and not so wild areas. This event is a timed search for as many species of birds as can be found within a 24 hour period.

**When:** April 12, 7 PM–April 13, 7 PM. Registration deadline March 22 at 4:30 PM. (Late registrations with no T-shirt accepted through April 11 at 4:30pm).

**How:** Form a team of three to five people and choose your team name and contribution goal. All contributions are tax deductible. Teams that raise at least \$150 are eligible for prizes. Prizes will be given to the teams that count the most species of birds and the teams with the highest amount of contributions. Register by March 22 to receive a free, custom-designed T-shirt. All registered participants can enjoy a light buffet and awards presentation at the Museum at the event's conclusion.

**Where:** Teams may count in any or all of the following six areas: Newport News, York County, Hampton, Poquoson, Williamsburg and James City County.

Register online or download a printable Registration Form. (<http://www.thevlm.org/special-events.aspx#cup>)

Download—Guidelines and Rules—Species List—Pledge Tracking Form—Donation Form

For more information email Rock Moeslein ([rock.moeslein@thevlm.org](mailto:rock.moeslein@thevlm.org)) or call 757-595-1900 ext. 217.

## WBC February Walks & Field Trip

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

### Bird Walk on February 9th at NQP by Geoff Giles



It was one of those “good to be alive” days on 9 February—and for 19 birders and Virginia Master Naturalist friends (Cathleen Campbell, Joanie Haury, David Taylor, Geoff Giles, Sharon Falconer, John and Marilyn Adair, Rita and Larry Muncy, George Sallwasser, Sara Lewis, George and Virginia Boyles, Jim Corliss, Joyce Lowry, Cheryl Jacobson, Claire Stephens, Rock Moeslein, Bringier O’Connell), it was even better. There

was a nip in the air and a fair breeze, but it was clearly to the liking of the birds in our home park. It proved to be a bird-filled morning, with forty species seen and many memorable birds viewed, many at close range!

Flocks of White-throated Sparrows, juncos and Yellow-rumped Warblers went about their business of foraging energetically throughout portions of the walk. For those who looked up, there was a total of five Bald Eagles spotted (three adults and two immatures)—obviously enjoying coasting on the brisk breeze. For those of us who looked sharply enough, there was an unusual total of four Brown Creepers seen, with two cooperative enough in ignoring us while foraging that we could offer good long views through spotting scopes.

Our logo bird, the Red-headed Woodpecker, was well represented, with seven viewed. Most were adults with flashy plumage, but a few immatures were also on view for contrast. A flock of flickers (try saying that ten times real fast!!), twelve in number, took the most numerous woodpecker prize for the day, although six red-bellies, a downy and a pileated did their species proud. Four Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers offered great, prolonged views of their distinctive foraging methods.

The walk began with three gorgeous white Tundra Swans which seemed suspended over our heads as they flew in formation into a stiff breeze, with little progress over the ground. In the course of the walk, Queens Creek offered views of a Horned Grebe and several species of ducks, including Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, and ruddies. There were a few Canada Geese and Double-crested Cormorant about, as usual.

There was a fair sized flock of bluebirds plus smaller grouping totalling about two dozen, and many, many robins. Turkey Vultures outnumbered Black Bultures by nine to seven. And of course, the “usual suspects”, Carolina Wren, thrasher, towhee, etc, etc, were in evidence as we worked through the above mentioned flocks. This was on balance one of the birdiest days I have seen in our park.

And it couldn't have happened to a nicer bunch. Some of our Master Naturalists were just getting their feet wet in our birding activities, and made it an especially enjoyable day with their curiosity, interest and enthusiasm. For the veterans among us, it's doubly enjoyable to share the enjoyment of a beautiful bird and a gorgeous day outdoors with kindred spirits. Thanks to one and all for making this a delightful and memorable day!!

## 15 February Field Trip to Dutch Gap

By Geoff Giles      Photos by Inge Curtis



American Coot

Well, it was what I grew up referring to as “duck weather”. It was overcast with light rain, and blustery with a bit of a nip in the air. To add to the weather, which demanded a few insulating layers of clothing under one waterproof layer, there were competing events which drew off some good eyes and ears elsewhere. Nevertheless, for the hardy band that birded Dutch Gap that morning, the birds (particularly ducks!) were many and active for us. Our efforts were rewarded with 59 species and some memorable moments.

The number of Wood Ducks, in particular, was extraordinary, and high water in the impoundments seems to have brought them out of the wood line on the far banks to the reed patches closer to our viewing platforms. There

were a number of pairs in evidence but colorful males predominated. These were good for appreciative ooohs and aaahs.

We also had some beautiful Northern Pintails in evidence. Wigeons, gadwalls, ringbills and of course mallards, also accounted for some beautiful views. The one no one wanted to count was the coot. They were simply everywhere and in prodigious numbers. Looks like there will be a bumper crop of little coots (cootlings? cooties?) this year in our nearby marshes. Similarly Canada geese were very numerous and vocal.

Bald Eagles were in evidence and assumed regal poses even in the drizzle. At one point, half of our group approached and photographed an imposing adult eagle which was



Northern Shovelers

perched about twenty feet above several of our group who had not seen him. We were lucky not to have been in the photo, in which the eagle was doubtless studying us, rather than the other way around. We were lucky to come out of that spot before the eagle relieved himself prior to departure!

When we moved on from the impoundments down to the river marsh trail we were treated to an extraordinary viewing of two Pileated Woodpecker who found the trees near our vantage point so much to their liking that they stayed at close range for a prolonged view of their foraging activity. At the same time we saw Buffleheads, Black Ducks and ruddies on the water and a Northern Harrier, undaunted by the drizzle, scouting repeatedly up and down the opposite bank in search of his lunch.

From that vantage point we got our first views of two flocks of the elusive and well-camouflaged Wilson's Snipe in flight. Two flocks of a little over a dozen each would occasionally emerge from nowhere (as far as our eyes could tell) and fly low for a moment before plunging into the reeds and tussocks in another spot and again make themselves as good as invisible. This whetted our snipe whistles and we persisted from two more vantage points until we finally located one vail snipe who presented himself fully in view for prolonged viewing in the scope before he reverted to his species' custom of flying a short distance and then dropping to totally vanish in the low reeds.

As we peered out towards the ducks and the snipes, groups of Tree Swallows were as happy as if they were singing in the rain and soaring about low over the water. Hard to tell if they were gleaning insects in spite of the precip or drinking droplets as they flew. One way or another, these early arrivals, or perhaps transients headed farther north, were very active and evident. Others undaunted by occasional rain were a goodly number of Redwinged Blackbirds in the impoundments and marshes. Males were by far the most numerous, and are doubtless staking out a nesting territory in anticipation of arrival of the flights of females yet to come.

*Editor's Note—Inge's photos were taken at Dutch Gap on February 13th when she and Geoff went there to scout it out for the February 15th field trip.*



Ring-necked Ducks

### **Bird Walk on February 23rd at NQP**

Geoff Giles, Jan Lockwood, and Linda and Sam Morse joined leader Bill Williams for the walk in New Quarter Park that was cut short due to the rain. There were 12 species identified during the 45 minutes of birding.

## Photos from Members



Shirley Devan took these two photos at the James City County Recreation Expo on February 23rd. Above are Jeanette Navia, Gary Carpenter, Ann Carpenter and Mike Millen. The photo on the right is of the "new club birder" that Rock Moeslein presented to Shirley at our February monthly meeting.



A Purple Sandpiper photographed by George Boyles on one of the CBBT islands.



Inge Curtis took this Bald Eagle photo along Route 5 on February 13th.

## 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 March



February's photo was of a Great-crested Flycatcher.

## CALENDAR

Saturday, March 9	WBC Bird Walk, NQP, 8 AM, Hugh Beard, Leader.
Saturday, March 9	HRBC Field Trip to Fisherman's Island and Cape Charles Vicinity. Contact Tom Charlock by phone (757-599-3418) or e-mail ( <a href="mailto:TomCharlock@gmail.com">TomCharlock@gmail.com</a> ) for more information.
Thursday, March 14	HRBC Monthly Meeting, <a href="http://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org">www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org</a> for more information
Saturday, March 16	WBC Field Trip to Newport News Park. See Front Page.
Sunday, March 17	HRBC Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader.
Wednesday, March 20	WBC Monthly Meeting. See front page.
Saturday, March 23	WBC Bird Walk, NQP, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader.
Saturday, March 23	New Kent Forestry Center's "Walk in the Woods". See Page 7.
April 12–13	Virginia Living Museum's Birding Cup Challenge. See Page 8
April 26–28	VSO Annual Meeting. See Page 6
Sunday, May 5	WBC Spring Bird Count. Information in April newsletter.