



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

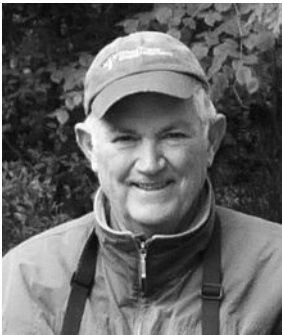
Vol. 38, No. 6

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

Summer 2014

### President's Corner

By Geoff Giles



Hi all! Hard to believe we are already over the hump, and that the days are getting shorter. Hope you have settled into a comfortable routine of enjoying the cooler morning and evening hours, and are enjoying the summery heat of the day in

moderation. Our birds seem to have gotten the hang of that rather quickly. The morning and evening chorus of avian voices have been joined by the insistent begging sounds of this year's crop of young birds. Some of the vocalizations of the fledglings are interesting and some even comical, as they produce attempts at song and calls like their parents, but they don't quite know the tune yet!

The fledglings coming to my feeder are ravenous, apparently having been turned loose to feed themselves by their parents. One young Carolina Wren beats me to the feeder in the morning when I go out to replenish the no-mess blend.

*Continued on page 4.*

### Contents of This Issue

<i>May 4 Spring Bird Count Summary</i>	<i>p. 2</i>
<i>June 3 Field Trip to Chincoteague</i>	<i>p. 3</i>
<i>Bird-Festing in West Virginia</i>	<i>p. 6</i>
<i>Local Master Naturalists begin Basic Training</i>	<i>p. 8</i>
<i>Reported Bird Sightings for May/June</i>	<i>p. 9</i>
<i>September 20 is Kiptopeke Challenge</i>	<i>p. 9</i>
<i>May 10 Field Trip to Shirley Plantation</i>	<i>p. 10</i>

### Summer Field Trips

Our Club's Field Trip Coordinator, Jim Corliss, has organized two outstanding summer field trips.

**JULY 19:** Wilna Tract, Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge. We'll depart from the Colony Square shopping center on Jamestown Road at **7:30 AM** and caravan to the refuge. This will be roughly a 90-minute drive. Plan to spend about three hours at the refuge looking for Dickcissels, Yellow-breasted Chats, and other summer residents. Bring snacks and plenty to drink. We'll plan to depart for home before the worst of the afternoon heat. There is no need to sign up for this trip. Just be at the Colony Square shopping center by 7:30 AM departure - rain or shine. Here is the link to their web site:

[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Rappahannock\\_River\\_Valley/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Rappahannock_River_Valley/)

**AUGUST 2:** Craney Island, Portsmouth, VA. This is one of the highlights of every Bird Club year. Ruth Beck will take us to Craney Island to see migrating shore birds! Ruth has studied birds at Craney for the 30 years and her weekly visits there during the spring and summer turn up rarities that many of us can only hope for on our year list.

We'll depart from the Colony Square shopping center on Jamestown Road at **6:30 AM** and caravan to the island. Due to access restrictions at the island we need to provide Dr. Beck with the number of participants in advance of the trip.

Per Jim Corliss: "If you would like to join us, **please send me a note or call me by July 20** so I can let Ruth know how many people to expect." Call Jim at 565-0536 or email him at: [jcorliss240@cox.net](mailto:jcorliss240@cox.net)

We'll plan one comfort stop before arriving at Craney and plan to finish by noon. Please bring a spotting scope if you have one plus water, snacks and/or light lunch, bug spray, and sun screen.

## Officers

**President** 645-8716  
Geoff Giles *tylerandal2@aol.com*

**Vice-President (Programs)** 206-1046  
Cheryl Jacobson *jcheryljoy@aol.com*

**Co-Vice-Presidents (The Flyer)** 229-4346  
Fred Blystone *fredblystone@gmail.com*  
Shirley Devan 813-1322  
*sedevan52@cox.net*

**Treasurer** 221-6683  
Ann Carpenter *carpent66@cox.net*

**Secretary** 229-1775  
Cathy Millar *millar.cathy@gmail.com*

**Member-at-Large** 565-2597  
Jeanette Navia *jnavia@gmail.com*

**Member-at-Large** 634-4164  
Jan Lockwood *nzedr@msn.com*

**Past President** 813-1322  
Shirley Devan *sedevan52@cox.net*

## Committee Chairpersons

**Field Trips** 565-0536  
Jim Corliss *jcorliss240@cox.net*

**Records & Bird Counts** 229-1124  
Bill Williams *billwilliams154@gmail.com*

**Library Liaison** 565-6148  
Lee Schuster *dljschuster@cox.net*

**Refreshments**  
Jan Lockwood *nzedr@msn.com*  
Ruth Gordon *ruthkagordon@gmail.com*

**Membership/Webmaster** 565-2597  
Jeanette Navia *jnavia@gmail.com*

**Historian** **Open**

## Wild Birds Unlimited

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

## May 4 Spring Bird Count Summary

By Bill Williams

Winter holdovers and an unexpected spring migrant populated the goody-birds shelf for the 37<sup>th</sup> consecutive Williamsburg Spring Bird Count (SBC). The event went on record May 4, 2014, a day that dawned with a shivering chill then warmed nicely before moderate to gusty breezes prevailed. An all-time high-count 67 participants (previous high was 55 in 2012) documented 11,197 total birds (record is 12,625 on 6 May 1978-the first SBC) among 151 species, slightly less than the count's long-term 153 species average.

An allure of our annual citizen science efforts such as Christmas and spring bird counts is the possibility of encountering a rare or very uncommon species. This year's count did not disappoint. Scribed to the rarities ledger was a Hooded Merganser found by the College Woods team, the 8<sup>th</sup> record for that species in our SBC history. This cryptic waterbird is relatively common here in winter then becomes rare by early April. Interestingly though, of the eight SBC records 5 have been since 2007, including each of the last 3 years! Is there a pattern afloat here? The other "winter" bird write-ins, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and 2 Dark-eyed Juncos, were pegged by feeder-watch folks at Governor's Land. Single Yellow-bellieds had made 4 previous SBC tallies: 2 May 1982; 29 April 1984; 8 May 1994; 29 April 2001. Juncos had lingered through 6 previous counts. The two this year were particularly special in that they reset the species' local late date from 28 April 1991 when 3 captured SBC headlines. Another bonus species, also with 6 earlier SBC occurrences, was a Horned Lark that got the Hog Island crew's attention.

Perhaps this count's most compelling listing was a total of 3 Cerulean Warblers, a rare local migrant that had only been recorded on two previous SBCs, 3 May 1987 (1) and 8 May 1994 (1). Two of this year's Ceruleans were detected in the New Quarter Park/Queens Lake area; the other was documented by the Kingsmill team.

What will also stand out as exceptional for the 2014 tally was that the final totals established 18 new SBC peak counts (see table on next page) and tied two others. Our 5 Cooper's Hawks equaled the same total for the 1 May 2005 and 5 May 2013 SBCs and the single Yellow-bellied Sapsucker tied the counts on the dates mentioned above. There was a time in our local ornithological history when Cooper's Hawks were exceptionally rare ANY TIME of the year. This stealthy accipiter did not become a regular for the spring count until after 1993! That stat on its own strongly illustrates how valuable these annual counts are.

This SBCs new peak counts and wonderful rare birds are a direct reflection of the Bird Club's superb work to involve and to evolve local understandings of our exciting bird life and diversity.

Like our favored Northern Mockingbird, as we sing this song loud enough, long enough and strong enough the messages will be heard. The more participation we have for these annual events the more accurately we characterize our local avifauna over time. Congratulations to the efforts of all of our 67 participants for a terrific day!! We look forward to your help with the Sunday, December 14, 2014 Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count.

Our heartfelt thanks to Debi Helseth and her Carrot Tree Kitchen staff for their continued support of the Williamsburg Bird Club. Make it a point to tell them how much you appreciate what they do for us. Talk about goodies!!!

The 2014 Spring Bird Count data is posted on the bird club's website along with a participant's list.

### 2014 New All-time Spring Bird Count Peak Counts

Species	2014 Total	Previous High	Previous High Count Date(s)
Red-shouldered Hawk	31	19	5 May 2013
Red-tailed Hawk	32	23	5 May 1996 and 1 May 2011
Barred Owl	14	13	6 May 1979
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	49	31	1 May 2011
Red-bellied Woodpecker	170	147	1 May 2011
Downy Woodpecker	59	57	29 April 2012
Great Crested Flycatcher	268	181	5 May 2013
Blue Jay	201	149	1 May 1988
Carolina Chickadee	233	230	29 April 2012
Tufted Titmouse	289	256	5 May 2013
House Wren	38	31	3 May 1998
Carolina Wrens	212	208	5 May 2013
American Robins	548	509	29 April 2012
Cerulean Warblers	3	1	3 May 1987 and 8 May 1994
Eastern Towhees	147	145	1 May 2011
Summer Tanager	111	98	9 May 2004
Northern Cardinal	598	503	29 April 2012

### June 3 Field Trip to Chincoteague

By Geoff Giles

Any day out birding with Dan Cristol is a good day, but this day, June 3, at Chincoteague was a great one! It started with Goldilocks weather - not too hot, and not too cold - but just right! The tone for the day's birds was set by an unusual bird at our first rest stop on Island One of CBBT, a Thayer's gull, which Dan spotted and scoped for us.

The day in Chincoteague was no less eventful for our fifteen birders. Highlights included glossy and white ibises, cattle, snowy and great egrets, little blue, tri-colored and great blue herons, snow goose, clapper rail and many, many shorebirds, including a photo-friendly piping plover which landed just in front of us and struck various poses for us at close range. Oh yes, and there were the skimmers skimming, the oyster catchers catching oysters and a breathtaking adult yellow crowned night heron which intently fished the causeway marsh and allowed us to admire him to our heart's content!

Inge Curtis superbly photographed the best moments for us and digitized the best of the images we all took away as memories. To restore our energy at mid-day we broke for lunch into two groups by preference - Vietnamese and seafood. After more arduous birding, a number of us (names withheld) indulged in great ice cream treats at the Island Creamery before the trip home. Rough day. If you missed this one, we hope you'll join us on a future trip!! Please enjoy one of Inge Curtis's stunning photos on the next page.





Great Egret taking on the challenge by a Red-wing Blackbird at Chincoteague, June 3, 2014.  
Photo by Inge Curtis.

## President's Corner, continued from page 1

There are two brown thrasher newbies with polar opposite personalities. One eats like there is no tomorrow, and has no concept of a pecking order or respect for bigger birds. He makes long visits and stuffs himself on some of just about everything, no matter who crowds in with him. The other is so skittish that it hardly gets a nibble before any other bird arriving causes it to flee. Fledgling downy and hairy woodpeckers are challenged at how to get situated, since they are unfamiliar with the contours of the feeder and continually try to find something they can prop their stiff tail feathers on while feeding. Tufted titmice fledglings are making some comical crash landings at the feeder. Guess any landing you can walk away from is a good landing! And there has been a steady procession of young bluebirds coming to the feeder (they are eating no-mess blend and suet), usually tagging along with their dads, presumably since the moms have work to do elsewhere incubating the second clutch! And the hummers are finally humming and the purple martins are martinizing – or whatever you wish to call their airborne insect vacuuming.

Although we take a summer break from our monthly meetings (until September), we will have some cool field trips for those not away on vacations and not afraid to cope with the rigors of summer weather. Our June trip to Chincoteague, in case you missed that one, led by Dan Cristol, was a super day. The birds we hoped to see obliged, among others tri-colored and little blue herons, cattle and snowy egrets, shorebirds, gulls and terns, and several good birds that hammed it up for the cameras, including a couple of clapper rails, one beautiful adult piping plover and a stunning adult yellow crowned night heron at rather close range! Jim Corliss has more good trips in store to enjoy the avian shows of summer, including the upcoming trip on 19 July to the Wilna Tract on the Rappahannock, which should offer stunning views of several species hard to see elsewhere in the Old Dominion – dickcissel, grasshopper sparrow and yellow-breasted chat! Jim has also laid on a trip to Craney Island, led by Ruth Beck for 2 August. Craney is one of the premiere birding destinations in our state and nobody does it better than Ruth. Don't miss that one!!

I continue to pore through our Williamsburg Bird Club history, compiled by Cynthia Long, and am dazzled by the contributions that Ruth Beck has made to the conservation and knowledge of our avian species over the years. It is icing on the cake that Ruth and her husband Sherwin have us all over to their home for an annual summer picnic like the great one they hosted this year in June! Another standout in the story of our club is Bill Williams. Bill combines the best traits of a true outdoorsman with a scientific approach to studying, conserving and sharing his knowledge of and passion for our birds. His expert leading of our bird counts progressively brings more and better focus on the natural richness that surrounds us and what our human impact on our natural world is and should be. There are other birds and birders in our history who have made significant contributions, including some who are no longer with us, but one other continuing and amazing contributor who truly stands out is Dr. Mitchell Byrd. Mitchell has been a tireless campaigner and often the pointy end of the spear for making important things happen for conservation and restoration of some of our most valued species. To say that he has made his mark on restoration of the bald eagle, the osprey and the peregrine falcon, to name a few, is an understatement. Thanks Mitchell, Bill and Ruth!!!

We hope you are giving some thought to “going native,” as some of us already have. We're talking about native plants here – namely the ones that evolved with our native species of bird, insect and animal life. They are an important part of a delicate fabric of species that evolved to nourish and be nourished by the other parts in our native food webs over more time than man has been on our planet. Our profound changes to this masterful creation have set loose species that grow out of control here and that can't be used by our native species, as they have not evolved to do so. We can mitigate the scale of our disruption by making our own patches of the natural world small havens for the trees, shrubs and plants that nourish our native species. Within two years of starting to mindfully plant some native shrubs and berry bushes in my back yard, I am already seeing some birds visiting and nesting that I did not see before. Pretty exciting – try it!

Gotta say that our bird club today would be a little bit like one hand clapping without our nearby chapters of the Virginia Master Naturalists. It just would not be as rich an experience or work as well. If you don't know the VMN, it is a statewide organization, supported by several state agencies, for the study and conservation of our state's natural world by volunteers. Sound familiar? Sounds like the folks who are most active and interested in our bird club, and indeed some of us are in both groups and love them both. Our Master Naturalist Volunteers make major volunteer contributions of time, effort and expertise (they are trained and certified) to programs that benefit our bluebirds,



ospreys, butterflies, native plant and animal species – the list goes on and on. Shirley Devan is President of our local chapter. Can't give a better recommendation than that! They have a training class scheduled to start September 2. If this sounds like something that appeals to you, check out the VMN web site ([www.historicrivers.org](http://www.historicrivers.org)) or call Shirley (757-813-1322). I think you will be impressed.

We hope you'll be joining us outdoors for bi-weekly morning bird walks at New Quarter Park through the summer and some really cool field trips. There are some great programs in store when we do resume monthly meetings in September, but there will be ample opportunities to get out and enjoy birds and nature with us in the meantime. Hope to have you join us soon for some enjoyment of our beautiful outdoors!

## Bird-festing in West Virginia

By Kathi Mestayer

This year Mac and I went to the Canaan Valley, W.Va. Bird Festival for the fifth year in a row. Canaan Valley is a unique area: a diverse assemblage of relict northern boreal communities\*, with habitats, plants, and animals typically found at higher latitudes.

It's hard to describe how different and exquisite the whole area is, but here is some text\* from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that summarizes it pretty well:

Habitat types include: peatlands, wet meadows of various types and composition, forested wetlands, open water, managed grassland, old-field grassland and shrubland, and conifer (spruce) mixed forest.

Upland balds occur on the high shoulder slopes and continue outside of the refuge, to the east, ending at the eastern continental divide (Allegheny Front). That's right; there is an eastern continental divide, and you can drive right over it on the road to Canaan Valley.

We never know what we're going to see and hear on the various bird walks, butterfly walks, native plant walks, and nighttime walks, but it's always interesting.

*Spruce Knob*: A high point (literally) of this year's fest was being at the highest point in West Virginia, Spruce Knob (4863 ft), and watching as a double-crested cormorant flew 100' over our heads. Huh? That species wasn't even on the list of birds we expected, in our wildest dreams, to see. The photo below is of Spruce Knob, with the trip leader, Matt Orsie, on the left.

I must apologize for having no bird photos – I am a close-up kind of person. So, here is my butterfly shot, below on the right. If you know what it is, let me know. Matt told us, but I didn't write it down and now can't find it in my NWF guide. I'll write it down next year.



Top of Spruce Knob, WV. Photo by Kathi Mestayer



Mystery Butterfly. Photo by Kathi Mestayer

Another treat at Spruce Knob was seeing the high-altitude Appalachian Tiger Swallowtail butterfly, which is noticeably bigger than the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, which we saw 45 minutes later at a lake somewhat lower down.

*Snowy Owls:* One of our keynote speakers was Steve Huy, co-founder and director of Project Owl-net, an organization devoted to the study of migrant northern saw-whet owls ([www.ProjectOwl-net.org](http://www.ProjectOwl-net.org)) and co-founder and director of Project SNOWstorm ([www.ProjectSNOWstorm.org](http://www.ProjectSNOWstorm.org)), a study focused on the snowy owl irruption of 2013/2014 in the Midwest and eastern North America.

Steve spoke about the snowy owl irruption, which is thought to be the result of a spike in lemming populations in the owls' normal breeding range. The whole tracking and banding effort was, apparently, cobbled together on the run, being that the owls did not give us much notice of their intent to migrate so far south.

One of his early photos was of a snowy owl on his hand, with orange-colored feathers all around its face. "That owl had the *worst* breath I've ever smelled!" he reported. A couple of days later, he found reports of an owl that was hanging out for a couple of days only a few miles from there, feeding on a dead porpoise. Apparently, the owls are opportunistic feeders, and don't care about advertising that fact.

The bird list for 2014 is not yet online, but I recall the total species count for birds as in the mid-130's. The lists for 2013 show 129 bird species (but not a single cormorant!), and include lots of sparrows (nine, including clay-colored), nine flycatchers (including olive-sided), and a ton of warblers (including cerulean). We always learn, during the Festival, to identify the calls of the Blackburnian, the blue-headed vireo, the worm-eating warbler, and others, only to need reminding a year later.

One of the nicest things about the festival is that it is during breeding season, so the birds you see there live there. And we are very mindful of birding ethics for that reason. This fall, Mac and I are bound and determined to visit the Allegheny Front Bird Banding station, which operates only during fall migration. It was established in 1957, and has operated every year since then. Our sources (trip leaders from the Festival who operate the Station) tell us early- to mid-September is the best time to be there. And we have a camping site picked out. Supporters of the Festival include the West Virginia Master Naturalists, who are everywhere you look, The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state and local agencies and nonprofits.

*(\*much text in this section taken/adapted from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, 2011)*



The Master Cooper cutting up some peanuts for the northern cardinal. Taken in Colonial Williamsburg by Fred Blystone.





Prothonotary Warbler found its way into Inge Curtis's living room. Inge snapped a photo before she ushered it out.

### **Local Master Naturalist Chapter Begins Basic Training September 2**

The Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program is accepting applications for Basic Training, which begins Tuesday, September 2, 2014, and ends by March 11, 2015.

People who are curious about nature, enjoy the outdoors, and want to be a part of natural resource management and conservation in Virginia are perfect candidates to become Virginia Master Naturalists. The Virginia Master Naturalist Program is a statewide corps of volunteers who provide education, outreach, citizen science, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

To become a member of the Historic Rivers Chapter, you must first complete the basic training course. Enrollment is limited to 25 and accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Tuition, which includes all materials and instruction, is \$150. The annual Chapter membership fee is currently \$25.

Applications are available on line: <http://www.historicrivers.org> If you have questions, contact Chair of the Basic Training Committee, Roger Gosden, [roger.gosden@gmail.com](mailto:roger.gosden@gmail.com) or call him at: 757-345-2896



### Reported Sightings for May (and early June)

We want to know what you're seeing in your yard and travels. Please share with Club members by sending your sightings to Fred Blystone, 229-4346, [fredblystone@gmail.com](mailto:fredblystone@gmail.com) or Shirley Devan, 813-1322, [sedevan52@cox.net](mailto:sedevan52@cox.net)

**May 2:** Ninna Snead had 3 Blue Grosbeaks in your yard on Friday, May 2

**May 7:** Lois Leeth in Florida reports one Osprey, 7 Great Egrets, many crows, 6 Brown Pelicans, 2 Northern Mockingbirds

**May 15:** Ruth Beck and her survey team found 80 species at Craney Island on their weekly survey. Bill Williams sent along these highlights: 18 Black-necked Stilts, 4 Black-bellied Plovers, 5 Stilt Sandpipers, 3 White-rumped Sandpiper, 2 Red-necked Phalaropes, 27 Least Terns, 35 Royal Terns.

**June 1:** Gary and Ann Carpenter spotted Bobolinks in the meadow beside the Massey House in Colonial Heritage. Also: Eastern Meadowlarks, Grasshopper Sparrows, Purple Martins, and Red-winged Blackbirds. The Bobolinks seemed to have moved on after a few days but the other birds remain.

*EDITOR'S NOTE:* This list is too short! We want to hear from you!

### September 20 is the Kiptopeke Challenge

By Paul Nasca, CVWO Kiptopeke Challenge Coordinator

The Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO) invites birders of all skill levels to participate in the 20th annual Kiptopeke Challenge (KC).

The KC is a fun and friendly "Big Day" birding competition. Teams compete to identify the greatest number of bird species in a single day within the competition boundary of Accomack and Northampton Counties, Virginia, including the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. The purpose of the KC is to increase awareness of fall bird migration on Virginia's Eastern Shore and to raise funds for CVWO.

It is easy to get involved and there are several categories in which to compete: 24-Hour, 3-Hour, Youth Team (age 18 and under), and Special Venue. The event is open to everyone regardless of birding ability. The KC is a great way for participants to use their birding skills in support of a non-profit organization dedicated to avian research, habitat conservation and public education.

For more information, a brochure, or to register, write to [kiptopekechallenge@gmail.com](mailto:kiptopekechallenge@gmail.com) or visit [www.cvwo.org](http://www.cvwo.org).



Lois Leeth who lives in St. Augustine Florida sent this photo of Great Egret nestlings.

## May 10 Field Trip to Shirley Plantation

By Tom McCary

Ten birders joined Randy Carter and me for a splendid spring ramble along old Shirley Plantation. The weather was perfect, the birds were welcoming, and the insects were kept at bay.

It is a maxim in birding that varied habitat yields a variety of birds, and our stroll proved this adage again and again. By the James River we found a mallard and a very cooperative tail-wagging spotted sandpiper; in the fields a killdeer bobbed and some eagerly anticipated eastern meadowlarks dazzles, while an eastern kingbird brought greetings from South America. A great-crowned flycatcher was a star in the formal gardens, and, as always, a rather officious northern mockingbird guarded the venerable buildings and courtyard from all and sundry. Would that he could evict some of the brown-headed cowbirds who were downright brazen in their conspicuous prancing.

There was one bird, however, which commanded our attention in many areas of the estate: the musical and beautiful orchard oriole. The first year male with his black chin and throat, the adult male clad in black and chestnut, and the yellow and olive-green female were all in full display. Shy and retiring they were not! At least 15 of these gorgeous birds were counted.

When we left the main grounds, we visited more remote spots near the river. Among our discoveries were cliff swallows, birds which nest colonially. Bald eagles and ospreys delighted us, and an indigo bunting perched on a wire for all to see.

The morning outing was a joy and a great success, and our club thanks Mr. Randy Carter for his serving as a guide and opening up areas of the property to us which are not normally seen by visitors. Once again, varied habitat kept us twitching on our sundry lists. [Full species list: <http://williamsburgbirdclub.org>]

## May and June Bird Walks at New Quarter Park

The Bird Club sponsored our usual 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Bird Walks at New Quarter Park in May and June.



**MAY 10** Bird Walk at New Quarter Park. Photo on the left with (left to right) Shirley Devan, Jim Corliss, leader, Cheryl Jacobson, Jan Lockwood, Bruce Glendenning.

Group tallied 47 species with the highlights being 5 Wood Thrush, 1 Ovenbird, 1 Black-and-white Warbler, 2 American Redstarts, 3 Northern Parulas, 1 Blackpoll Warbler, 1 Yellow-throated Warbler and 1 Prairie Warbler and 4 Summer Tanagers.



## MAY 24 Bird Walk at New Quarter Park.

By Tom McCary

A lovely cool morning welcomed a stalwart group of birders to a park resounding with numerous avian songs. The vireos were persistent, the titmice were loud, but the warblers with their frequent indistinct buzzy songs and low-pitched notes kept many of us puzzled by the birds' version of "Name That Tune."

Fortunately I was surrounded by a number of erudite birders with excellent ears who with gusto solved many a musical riddle. Enigmatic warblers dwindled to but a few. The proof of the pudding for us is in the listing one might say, and we concluded our search with a rather remarkable 53 species. Yes, many birds remained hidden from view, such as the prairie warbler and the Kentucky warbler, but we know where to look and we shall definitely keep a lookout.



Seated (left to right): John Adair, Marilyn Adair, Virginia Boyles, Cynthia Long, Betty Peterson, Jim Corliss. Back row: George Boyles, Joan Lockwood, Tom McCary, Bob Long, Cheryl Jacobson, Geoff Giles. Photo by John Adair.

## June 14 Bird Walk at New Quarter Park. .



Led by Susan Powell, the group tallied 44 species.

Highlights were: 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Clapper Rails, 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 3 Chimney Swifts, 1 Blue-headed Vireo, 6 Red-eyed Vireo, 1 Ovenbird, 1 Yellow-throated Warbler, 6 Summer Tanagers, 2 Scarlet Tanagers.



## JUNE 28 Bird Walk at New Quarter Park.



Leader Bill Williams and the group tallied 38 species. Highlights included one Clapper Rail in the marsh, two Yellow-billed Cuckoos, a White-eyed Vireo with recently fledged young, a Yellow-throated Vireo, and a Red-eyed Vireo.

Front row: Lindsay Lowry, Leslie Fellows, Cheryl Jacobson, Joyce Lowry, Sara Lewis, John Dunlop, Josiah Weber.

Second row: Geoff Giles, Mike Lowry, Ian Lowry, Bruce Glendenning, Ann Marie Castellani, Robin McLeod, Meg Weber, Jan Lockwood, Leader Bill Williams, Shirley Devan.

July bird walks at New Quarter Park will be July 12 (8 am with leader Geoff Giles) and July 26 (7 am with leader Bill Williams). August Bird Walks will be August 9 (8 am) and August 23 (7 am). All are welcome!

## One More Photo From ...



... Inge Curtis's yard – a Pine Warbler feeding a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird, May 28, 2014.



## 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 "puzzle" for Summer



May's photo was of a Ruddy Turnstone

## CALENDAR

Saturday, July 12	Williamsburg Bird Club (WBC) Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 am. Geoff Giles, leader.
Saturday, July 19	WBC Field Trip to Rappahannock River NWR. See page 1 for details.
Sunday, July 20	HRBC Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7 am. Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, July 26	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 am. Bill Williams, Leader
Saturday, August 2	WBC Field Trip to Craney Island, Portsmouth. See page 1 for details.
Sunday, August 3	HRBC Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7 am. Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, August 9	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 am.
Saturday, August 23	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 am.

*Editor's Note: The next newsletter will be out in early September.*