



# The Flyer

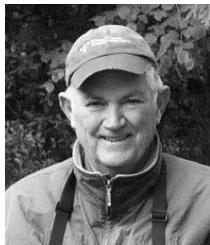
## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 39, No. 10

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

December 2015

### President's Corner



By Geoff Giles

As we approach one of the highlights of our birding year, the annual Christmas Bird Count, I would like to share a poem, which clearly captures the spirit of our count activity.

### Remorse

"A hunter shot at a flock of geese  
That flew within his reach.  
Two were stopped in their rapid flight  
And fell on the sandy beach.  
The male bird lay at the water's edge  
And just before he died  
He faintly called to his wounded mate  
And she dragged herself to his side.  
She bent her head and crooned to him  
In a way distressed and wild  
Caressing her one and only mate  
As a Mother would a child.  
Then covering him with her broken wing  
And gasping with failing breath  
She laid her head against his breast,  
A feeble honk...then death.  
This story is true, though crudely told,  
I was the man in the case.  
I stood knee deep in the drizzle and cold  
And the hot tears burned my face.  
I buried the birds in the sand where they lay,  
Wrapped in my hunting coat,  
And I threw my gun and belt in the Bay  
When I crossed in the open boat.  
Hunters will call me a right poor sport  
And scoff at the thing I did.  
But that day something broke in my heart,  
And shoot again? God forbid!"

Our Christmas Bird Count grew out of a tradition in which the original counting method was to shoot as many birds as possible and compete with other  
*Continued on Page 4.*

### Audubon Christmas Bird Count – Sunday, December 20

Please put a candy cane on your calendar to remind yourself to participate in the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Williamsburg Audubon Christmas Bird Count **Sunday, December 20, 2015**. We urge everyone to find some time during that day to be a part of this significantly important citizen science effort. **In 2013 we set a target to have at least 100 participants and we made it! We fell a bit short of that in 2014. So let's top that century mark again this year!!!** The Christmas Bird Count was initiated in 1900 as a counterplay to a holiday season tradition of seeing how much game could be taken in a single day. Since then this world class endeavor has become one of the standards by which international wintering bird population trends and distributions are assessed over time. Rather than removing wildlife, these 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 the center is 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 20th 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 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 amount of time you spent and the address and/or neighborhood 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 at the James City County Marina (formerly EcoDiscovery Park)  
*Continued on page 2*

## 2015 Officers

<b>President</b> Geoff Giles	645-8716 <a href="mailto:tylerandal2@aol.com">tylerandal2@aol.com</a>
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## Committee Chairpersons

<b>Field Trips</b> Jim Corliss	565-0536 <a href="mailto:jcorliss240@cox.net">jcorliss240@cox.net</a>
<b>Records &amp; Bird Counts</b> Bill Williams	229-1124 <a href="mailto:billwilliams154@gmail.com">billwilliams154@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Refreshments</b> Jan Lockwood Ruth Gordon	<a href="mailto:nzedr@msn.com">nzedr@msn.com</a> <a href="mailto:ruthkagordon@gmail.com">ruthkagordon@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership/Webmistress</b> Jeanette Navia	707-3345 <a href="mailto:jnavia@gmail.com">jnavia@gmail.com</a>
<b>Historian</b> Tom McCary	229-2830

## Wild Birds Unlimited and Backyard Birder support Bird Club and birders

Visit the new Wild Birds Unlimited Store in Settler's Market. The Club receives a 5% rebate on the pre-tax amount our Club members spend at WBU. Remember to let them know you are a member. At the new Backyard Birder store at Quarterpath Commons, present your Bird Club Parking Pass and receive a 10% discount on most merchandise.

## Christmas Bird Count, (continued)

across from the Jamestown Settlement. Street address is: 2054 Jamestown Road. Food and drink will be available for all. Let Bill Williams or your team leader know in advance if you plan to be at the tally.

If you plan to participate in the count please contact Bill Williams [billwilliams154@gmail.com](mailto:billwilliams154@gmail.com) or Jim Corliss [jcorliss240@cox.net](mailto:jcorliss240@cox.net) **no later than December 13.**

If you have been part of a field team in the past please consider joining that team again by contacting the team leader. Tally HO!!

## Reported Bird Sightings for November 2015

*We want to know what you're seeing in your yard and travels. Please share with Club members by sending your sightings to Judy Jones [jjones184@cox.net](mailto:jjones184@cox.net) or Shirley Devan [sedevan52@cox.net](mailto:sedevan52@cox.net).*

**November 3:** Bill Williams observes a Green Heron at Greensprings Nature Trail.

**November 5:** Melinda Cousins reports a Dark-eyed Junco under her feeder, and November 6, an Osprey at a pond on one of the golf courses in Ford's Colony.

**November 9:** Shirley Devan flushes 7 Eastern Meadowlarks from the meadow at Colonial Heritage.

**November 14:** Johnie Sanders reports 5 Barn Swallows at Cardinal Acres, James City.

**November 17:** Nick Newberry reports a Yellow-billed Cuckoo found dead outside Millington Hall on W&M Campus – “a victim of an apparent window-kill.”

**November 19:** Geoff Giles photographed a female Purple Finch at his feeder. “First one in four years!”

**November 22:** George Harris reports waterfowl are beginning to arrive at Beaverdam Park in Gloucester: 191 Canada Geese, 3 Northern Shovelers, 2 Ring-necked Ducks, 2 Buffleheads, 85 Ruddy Ducks, 5 Pied-billed Grebes, 800 American Coots (Flock will probably increase to 2000-3000), 35 Ring-billed Gulls, and 3 Dark-eyed Juncos.

**November 23:** Geoff Giles photographs a rare Gray Kingbird on Magotha Road on the Eastern Shore, seen with Matt Anthony. Geoff watches Black-headed Gull foraging on Swan Cove at Chincoteague with Matt Anthony, Eli Gross and Jason Strickland. He also sees Cave Swallow flyby with Jason and Eli.

**November 24:** Shirley Devan observes a single Rusty Blackbird under the suet feeder in her backyard at Colonial Heritage.

## **November 21 Field Trip to Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge**

By Jim Corliss

It isn't often that we're able to observe winter waterfowl in 60-degree sunny weather at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, but that was exactly what fifteen lucky birders enjoyed on our November 21 field trip. We started the morning at 7:30 AM in the Colony Square shopping center and were immediately treated to a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks basking in the early morning sun on a parking lot utility pole. We picked up a few more typical birds such as chickadees, robins, and American Crows, and then headed off to Virginia Beach.

Rather than traveling directly to Back Bay NWR, we made two stops before arriving at the refuge. Each location offered some unique finds. Our first birding spot was Rudee Inlet where we were greeted by a sizable flock of Boat-tailed Grackles congregating around puddles in the parking lot. I had never really considered that these are very beautiful birds, especially the females that were showing off their subtle tawny shades in the sun. A quick scan also yielded some Black Scoters riding the waves at the mouth of the inlet and Great Black-backed Gulls resting at the end of the jetty. But the highlights were a single Horned Grebe and a female Red-breasted Merganser fishing very close to the sea wall where we could easily see the grebe's bright red eyes. Both birds were diving amongst the myriad of lines tossed in by the human fishermen, no doubt competing for the happy meal versions of the same entree.

After leaving Rudee Inlet we made our way to Sandbridge and Little Island Park. The wind was blowing cold and strong out on the pier and the waves were large enough to conceal the loons when they weren't diving for fish. Eventually, however, we were able to discern both Common Loons and Red-throated Loons on the water and Northern Gannets far out to sea. Two large flocks of Brown Pelicans also made appearances and a pod of dolphins materialized just as we were leaving the pier. Little Island was also where we found the only shorebirds of the day - a small fly-by flock of eight Sanderlings.

Moving on to Back Bay NWR, the layers of weather gear that felt ineffective out on the open beaches suddenly were too much in the calm, late morning sun behind the dunes. We walked along the Bay Trail staying close to the Shipp's Bay shoreline to view the flocks of winter ducks. It was still early in terms of arriving winter waterfowl so the numbers were small, but we were able to view a nice selection of American Coot, Gadwall, Ring-necked Ducks, Redheads, Canvasback, American Widgeon, and Northern Shovelers. After hearing Tundra Swans for several minutes off in the distance, two flocks of roughly 30 birds each made appearances, flying in formation over our location and leaving a lasting impression on everyone in the group and easily getting a top spot on my personal highlight reel for the year. On our way out of the refuge a Bald Eagle and a Cooper's Hawk rounded out our list for the day at 53 species. It was a beautiful day to enjoy with fellow birders.



*Left to right:* Patty Maloney, Jim Corliss, John Adair, Tom McCary, Lieve Keeney, Geoff Giles, George Boyles, Jan Lockwood, Joyce Lowry, Shirley Devan, Virginia Boyles, Bringier McConnell, Marilyn Adair, Cathy Millar. Photo by Judy Jones.

## **President's Corner (continued)**

participants to see who could bring in the most cadavers. Knowing as we do the beauty of our wild birds, there must have been more than a little remorse at some of the wanton carnage in this count method. Happily the controversial idea of identifying and counting the birds by sight and sound, as we do today, finally prevailed. The birds we tally on our Christmas Count will bring us nothing but pleasure, and hopefully birdsong and young birds next spring. We hope you will join us for this joyful event this year. If you are not already hooked up with one of our team leaders, please contact Countmeister Bill Williams, and let Bill pair you with a team.

That will bring this birding year to a close, but we will be raring to go in January. In addition to our bi-monthly walks at New Quarter Park, there will be a walk on New Year's Day which always starts our year off right. In January we will get up close and personal with winter wildfowl at Dutch Gap Conservation Area – a priceless habitat. We will also be scheduling a boat trip on the Chesapeake Bay late in January to see winter sea ducks, wildfowl and mammals around the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and the mouth of the Bay. For each of the last three years we have seen harbor seals, humpback whales and surprise winter bird species. Sometime in February we will offer a trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel islands by car for our members. Most of the islands are closed to the birding public, except by special arrangement, which Jim Corliss will make happen for us. Specific dates for the above events will be announced, and as usual, our members will have first shot at signing up for all events where space is limited.

We look forward to an exciting birding year ahead, including the launch of the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas project. That will afford us the opportunity to contribute some very meaningful citizen science data to a project of great conservation significance. In the meantime, I hope you are participating in Project Feeder Watch. This focuses on attention devoted to your backyard birds. It has motivated me to notice what is happening in nature just outside my window, and to consider what I can do to enhance the habitat – the birds' and mine! WBC wishes you safe and happy end of year holidays ahead and a happy and healthy start to the New Year. We hope you will spend some of it with us, enjoying our birds and nature!



### **VSO Annual Meeting – Save the Date!**

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club is hosting the 2016 Virginia Society of Ornithology's Annual Meeting April 29-May 1, 2016. You don't have to be a VSO or RVBC member to attend. In addition to lots of field trips around the Roanoke area Saturday and Sunday mornings, you can also enjoy keynote speaker Pete Dunne at Saturday night's banquet. Pete is a renowned author and speaker, longtime director of the Cape May Bird Observatory, New Jersey Audubon's Birding Ambassador, and founder of the World Series of Birding. Home base for the weekend is the Sheraton Roanoke Hotel and Conference Center at 2801 Hershberger Rd. Room reservations can be made at 540-563-9300, 800-325-3535, or [www.sheratonroanoke.com](http://www.sheratonroanoke.com). Rates are \$99 plus tax,

but you must use the "Virginia Society of Ornithology Annual Meeting 2016" designation when reserving your room. More details will be forthcoming as they become available, so check our Facebook page or our website at [roanokevalleybirdclub.com](http://roanokevalleybirdclub.com) often. But for now, make plans to attend this fun event! For more information, please contact Alyce Quinn, General Chairman, at [twoquinnss@yahoo.com](mailto:twoquinnss@yahoo.com).

### **VSO's Outer Banks Field Trip – February 5 – 7, 2016**

Coordinator: Meredith Bell. Leaders: Bill Akers, Jerry Via, Lee Adams and Meredith Bell

Hotel: Comfort Inn South Oceanfront in Nags Head

Friday: All-day trip to Lake Mattamuskeet. Saturday: Pea Island NWR, Bodie Island Lighthouse, Oregon Inlet and other local birding hot spots. Sunday AM: Alligator River NWR. Details are now on the website:

[http://www.virginiabirds.net/f\\_trips.html](http://www.virginiabirds.net/f_trips.html)

All VSO field trips have a registration fee of \$20 for NON-members only. This fee will be applied to an individual membership that will be active until the end of 2016. If 2 or more people from the same family register, the registration fee will be \$25, which covers a family membership. So it pays to be a VSO member! Join today!

## Invasive plants are not for the birds!

by Johnny Randall, North Carolina Botanical Garden Director of Conservation Programs

The connection between birds and fleshy fruits is a beautiful example of coevolution. Birds receive a nutritional “reward” for eating the fruit, and the plant benefits via seed dispersal. The coevolutionary relationship continues, as the seeds within a fleshy fruit have a particularly hard seed coat that protects them through their journey in a bird’s gut. This “pre-treatment” is often required for germination, and the seeds are ultimately deposited in their own nurturing plop of fertilizer. Note that dry fruits and seeds are digested by birds and are not typically bird-dispersed except by adhesion to feet and feathers. Dry seeds and fruits, like those in the sunflower/composite family (Asteraceae) and bean/pea family (Fabaceae), are produced in ample quantities that can sustain “sharing” with birds and other critters, with plenty left for dispersal by wind, water, etc.

Birds are generalist feeders when it comes to fleshy fruit selection and will eat what fits in their beak, which is another example of coevolution through natural selection. And because birds are as likely, or even more likely, to disperse an invasive plant than a native plant, the bird/plant mutualism has been spoiled.

Of the approximately 6,000 native plant species in the southeastern United States, about one-third have fleshy fruits and are bird-dispersed, whereas nearly one-half of the approximately 450 invasive plant species in this same region are bird-dispersed. Birds are therefore a primary vector for moving actual and potentially invasive plants from the cultivated landscape to natural areas. And once established in natural areas, the spread continues in leaps and bounds. This is why bird-dispersal is a primary risk assessment character for evaluating plant invasiveness potential.

Most of the seriously invasive and potentially invasive plants in our area have fleshy fruits and are bird-dispersed, such as English ivy, autumn olive, Chinese privet, Oriental bittersweet, porcelainberry, mahonia, multiflora rose, and Japanese honeysuckle.

The scientific literature on invasive plants and bird-dispersal is moderate but growing, and almost all of the research warns of a serious and multi-layered phenomenon. First off, birds either do not discriminate between native and invasive plants or often prefer invasives over natives. One reason for this is that a large proportion of invasives are high in carbohydrates, whereas the natives are often higher in protein and lipids/fats. Birds are consequently choosing candy bars over cheeseburgers, which could affect bird nutrition, particularly during fall migration.

My own research on this subject confirms that invasive plant fruits are often preferred over natives. I showed that there is, for example, a strong preference for the invasive camphortree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) and autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), over the native red bay (*Persea palustris*) and downy arrow-wood (*Viburnum rafinesqueanum*), respectively. This competition for reproduction via fleshy fruit dispersal is a particularly insidious negative invasive plant effect that is often overlooked.

Researchers have also shown that many invasive plants have fruits that persist longer on the plant than do native plant fruits into the fall and winter. The invasives are therefore available when our natives are not.

One particularly worrisome study showed that male cardinals that ingest the red fruits of the very invasive and widespread Amur honeysuckle become strikingly colored. Bright color typically signals superior health, and females tend to choose these individuals as mates. Ingestion of Amur honeysuckle causes less fit or even sickly males to be pumped up on these red pigments, compromising the benefits of selective mate choice.

Let’s summarize the cascade of negative effects wrought by bird-dispersed invasive plants. Invasive plants with fleshy fruits are spread far and wide by birds, which is enhanced in the winter. Bird nutrition is compromised when a carbohydrate-rich invasive is chosen over a protein or lipid rich native. Native plants can be outcompeted for reproduction by invasives. Lastly, overall bird population health could decline because females cannot distinguish between sickly and vigorous males when choosing a mate.

The lesson from this gloomy scenario is to plant native plants and remove the non-native plants that produce fleshy fruits! Note, too, that it is the foliage of native plants, not non-natives, that supports the caterpillars of our moths and butterflies. You can make a difference!

[This article is reprinted with permission from the North Carolina Botanical Garden. It originally appeared in the Fall 2015 NCBG newsletter.]

## TAKE NOTE!

### January 1 Greensprings Boardwalk Bird Show

Join Shirley Devan New Year's Day – Friday, January 1, 2016 – at the Greensprings Trail Boardwalk for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual “New Year’s Day Boardwalk Bird Show.” We’ll meet on the “old” boardwalk over the old beaver pond from 1–3 pm (not the Virginia Capitol Trail boardwalk.)

Park in the lot at the end of Eagle Way, beyond Jamestown High School. Come as you are; bring visiting family, friends and children; come early, stay late or just drop by. Celebrate the New Year with a birding adventure close to home with birding friends.

Remember, every bird is a year bird on New Year’s Day! Hope to see you there.

### Pay Your 2016 Dues!

Now is the time to pay your dues for 2016. Use the renewal form inside this newsletter. We hope you will add something extra to your check to support our Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships (3 in 2016), our Ruth Beck and Bill Sheehan Ornithology Research Grants to Biology Graduate Students (4 in 2016), and the feeder stations at the Child Development Resources campus. Membership dues alone do not support these efforts. We can’t do it without you!

### 2016 Officers elected at November meeting

At the November 18 Club meeting, members elected officers for 2016:

*President:* Geoff Giles

*Vice President, Programs:* Cheryl Jacobson

*Co-Vice Presidents, The Flyer:* Shirley Devan and Judy Jones

*Treasurer:* Ann Carpenter

*Secretary:* Catherine Millar

*Member-at-Large:* Jan Lockwood

*Member-at-Large:* Jeanette Navia

The following Committee Chairs have agreed to serve again in 2016:

Jim Corliss, Field Trips

Bill Williams, Records & Bird Counts

Jan Lockwood and Ruth Gordon, Refreshments

Jeanette Navia, Membership and Webmistress

Lee Schuster, Library Liaison

Tom McCary, Historian

We are grateful to returning Board members and Committee Chairs for their dedicated volunteer efforts to keep the Club running! Give them a hearty “thanks” when next you see them.

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### Virginia Beach Pelagic Trips

Brian Patteson will run several winter pelagic trips out of Lynnhaven Inlet aboard his boat, The Stormy Petrel II. Brian is a nationally recognized pelagic trip leader who has been running these trips for many years. The trips will be December 12, January 2, January 16, and January 23. All of these trips are Saturdays, with a mandatory weather date on Sunday. The December trips and first January trip are \$165; the last two January trips are \$195. The cheaper trips are ~ 10 hours, while the more expensive ones are ~ 12 hours. Trips meet at Lynnhaven promptly at 6:00 a.m. Here is the web site for more details: <http://www.patteson.com/schedule/201516-va-beach-winter-trips/>

### “Clayton & Catesby: Botanical Virginia” – An Exhibit at Jamestown Settlement – December 5, 2015–February 28, 2016

The beauty and variety of Virginia plant life is showcased in a three-month exhibit opening December 5 at Jamestown Settlement, a state-operated museum of 17th-century Virginia. “Clayton & Catesby: Botanical Virginia” explores documentation of native plants by naturalist Mark Catesby and botanist John Clayton in the 18th century and the Flora of Virginia Project in the 21st century.

Seventeen period hand-colored engravings created from Catesby’s watercolor paintings of American flora and fauna, on loan from the Garden Club of Virginia, will be exhibited alongside a 1762 edition of “Flora Virginica,” based on Clayton’s work. The exhibit, which is curated by the Flora of Virginia Project, also will include tools used for studying and collecting plants, and biographies of Catesby and Clayton. For more information, click over to <http://www.historyisfun.org/jamestown-settlement/botanical-virginia/> or call (888) 593-4682 toll-free or (757) 253-4838.

## **Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships**

Applications are due December 8 for The Williamsburg Bird Club's two Bill Williams Nature Camp scholarships to the 2016 sessions of Nature Camp, nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Rockbridge County, VA. Students who will have completed fifth through eleventh grade next June are eligible to apply. More info about Nature Camp here: <http://naturecamp.net>

These scholarships support students who have an interest in learning about the natural world and who can work and learn both independently and in groups. Nature Camp is unique in its academic focus. Since it began in 1942, Nature Camp has emphasized hands-on, field-based education in natural history and environmental studies. Campers are required to attend daily classes, to take notes, to complete all written assignments, and to participate in outdoor activities in all types of weather. They need to accept academic challenges with enthusiasm, commitment, and hard work. The camp has taught students to love and protect the environment through its hands-on learning approach.

Download the scholarship application here:  
<http://williamsburgbirdclub.org/images/2016NatureCampScholarshipApp.pdf>

## **Still Time to sign up for Project FeederWatch**

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards across North America. As a volunteer, you will periodically count the birds you see at your feeders from November through early April and then enter your count data onto the Project FeederWatch website. To participate, just watch your feeders as much or as little as you want over two consecutive days each week, spending as little or as much time each day as your schedule allows. There is a \$18 annual registration fee (\$15 for Cornell Lab members). This year the season runs through April 8. To join or renew: <http://feederwatch.org/join-or-renew/>.

## **November 14 Bird Walk at New Quarter Park**

Jim Corliss led the group of 22 birders around the usual spots at New Quarter Park on the regular 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Bird Walk. The group observed 32 species. Winter residents have arrived including: 1 Bufflehead, 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet,

4 Hermit Thrushes, 7 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 3 Dark-eyed Juncos, and 12 White-throated Sparrows.



*Back Row:* Tom McCary, Jim Corliss, Zack Hubbard, Lisa Nickel, NJ and Madalyn Hubbard, David Lunt, Sue Mutell, Adriano Azambuja, Bob Long, Angelina Woo *Front Row:* Geoff Giles, Betty Peterson, Anita Angelone, Susan Nordholm, Randi Heise, Cheryl Jacobson, Lieve Keeney, Lynn Collins, Cynthia Long, Sara Lewis (not pictured), Nancy Barnhart (behind the camera).

## **November 28 Bird Walk at New Quarter Park**

The group of 16 “early worms” got the birds at New Quarter park Saturday, November 28. Led by Bill Williams, the group observed 29 species including: Clapper Rail (heard), 1 female Bufflehead, 3 female Hooded Mergansers, and 2 Bald Eagles (one each adult and immature) plus 2 Killdeer, 1 Red-headed Woodpecker (heard only), 2 Hermit Thrushes, 8 Cedar Waxwings, 3 White-throated Sparrows, and 7 Yellow-rumped Warblers. Where were the Dark-eyed Juncos?



*Back Row:* Lieve Keeney, Lynn Collins, Bill Williams. *Center row:* Graham Rose, David Hall, John Eberhardt, Geoff Giles, Jennifer Eberhardt, Dawn Bonavita, Ann Hageman. *Front row:* Shirley Devan, Betty Peterson, Catherine Frey, Ruth Gordon, Elaine Butler. *Not pictured:* Sue Mutell.

## **January 16 Field Trip to Dutch Gap Conservation Area**

The depth of winter is a great time to visit Dutch Gap Conservation area in Chesterfield County – about 45 minutes from Williamsburg.

Wintering waterfowl can be observed up close from the two observation platforms along the entrance road. This is a good location for your spotting scopes.

Mark the date on your calendar and look for more details in the January newsletter!

<http://www.chesterfield.gov/DutchGap/>



Tundra Swans flying over at Back Bay NWR November 21 during Club field trip. Photo by Shirley Devan

## **CALENDAR**

Saturday, December 12	Virginia Beach Pelagic Trip with Brian Patteson; meet at Lynnhaven at 6:00 a.m. (more information on page 6).
Sunday, December 20	Christmas Bird Count (See page 1).
Friday, January 1	“New Year’s Day Boardwalk Bird Show” 1- 3 pm Greensprings Trail Boardwalk.
Sunday, January 3	Hampton Roads Bird Club sponsors Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7 am. Meet in the parking lot near Ranger Station.
Saturdays, Jan. 2/16/23	Virginia Beach Pelagic Trips with Brian Patteson; meet at Lynnhaven at 6:00 a.m. (more information on page 6).
Saturday, January 9	Bird Walk at New Quarter Park, 8 am. Meet at the parking lot near the office.
Saturday, January 16	Bird Club Field Trip to Dutch Gap Conservation Area. Look for more details in January newsletter.
Sunday, January 17	Hampton Roads Bird Club sponsors Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7 am. Meet in the parking lot near Ranger Station.
Wednesday, January 20	Bird Club Meeting, <b>7 PM (note new time)</b> , Andrews Hall Room 101, W&M Campus.
Saturday, January 23	Bird Walk at New Quarter Park, 7 am. Meet at the parking lot near the office.

## **January 20 Club Program and Meeting**

### **NOTE 7 PM START TIME!**

Join us for our first meeting of 2016 when we'll hear from two W&M students about their “summer projects” in 2015. We'll convene at our usual spot – Andrews Hall, Room 101 at 7 pm! Please note the new start time!

Matt Anthony is a W&M American Studies doctoral student who spent his summer at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, MD working with the Breeding Bird Survey.

W&M undergraduate Nick Newberry spent his summer studying flycatchers!

Join us to hear about these interesting research projects.



Brown-headed Nuthatch at backyard feeder. Photo by Nancy Barnhart