

The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

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April 2018

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Cheryl Jacobson



Happy Spring 2018 in the Year of the Bird! As so beautifully said by Aldo Leopold: "One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of March thaw, is the Spring."

As the Year of the Bird continues, I hope to inspire you by sharing words of wisdom spoken by noted people. These words were said by Jane Goodall: "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

Do not discount the importance of what you may see as a simple act, such as planting a flower. For this month, my call to action is to plant native plants. When filled with native species, your yard, garden, patio, or balcony becomes a vital recharging station for birds passing through, and a sanctuary for nesting birds. Native plants are also important hosts for protein-rich native insects like butterfly and moth caterpillars, which nesting birds need to feed their growing chicks. Birds have shaped their entire life cycles, including their migrations and feeding habits, around plant communities and the seasonal fruits and insects they provide.

Learn about what plants attract what birds at:

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/its-true-a-yard-full-of-native-plants-is-a-yard-full-of-well-fed-birds/>

Be certain to do your research before you plant. For example, did you know that Nandina berries contain cyanide and other alkaloids that produce highly toxic hydrogen cyanide (HCN) which is extremely poisonous to all animals and birds? When dozens of Cedar Waxwings were found dead in Thomas County, Georgia, researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, found the cause to be Nandina berries. If you don't want to rip out your Nandina, please prune the berry laden branches.

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PROGRAMS

W&M ANDREWS HALL, ROOM 101

By Judy Jones

Research Grant Recipients Present Findings April 18th @ 7pm

As always, our April meeting is a very special one, with research grant recipients presenting their findings. These three folks are Master students in the Biology Department at W&M and their research is just fascinating. Speaking will Megan Thompson, Ananda Menon, and Carly Hawkins, talking about their research on noise pollution and mercury pollution, here and in Australia. Please come join us for an interesting and very educational evening.

Future Williamsburg Bird Club (WBC) Programs

MAY 16th – In May, Susan Powell will be our speaker. As a dedicated birder and well-respected authority on all things avian, she will be sharing with us ways to improve our birding proficiency as well as a quick review on bird markings and ways to improve our identification skills. Come join us on May 16th for this opportunity to make your birding experiences even more successful.

Don't forget your parking pass!

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You have probably observed an ear-full of Cedar Waxwings landing in your Holly trees devouring every berry as rapidly as possible. Often when the Holly berries are gone, they will resort to Nandina berries if that is all that is available and thus they are at high risk of being poisoned.

Here is a photo of a beautiful Cedar Waxwing in my yard in early March. I was thrilled to see an "ear-full" or a "museum" of them in my yard that day.



With spring in the air, I am sure all of us have seen early signs of breeding bird activities. Here is a little quiz for those of you who like the TV Show, Jeopardy: Question 1: Pair in suitable habitat, territorial defense, courtship display or copulation?

Answer: What are probable breeding categories for the Breeding Bird Atlas.

Question 2: Carrying nest material, carrying food, feeding young, nest with eggs or young?

Answer: What are confirmed breeding categories for the Breeding Bird Atlas.

I was reminded of the rich history of our Club at the April meeting when on behalf of the membership, Bill Williams was presented with a thank you gift. I know that many of us do not have time to read everything on our website, so I want to include here a few snippets from the site about the beginning of the WBC. We owe so much to Ruth Beck, Dr. Mitchell Byrd, and Bill Williams.

The First Four Months

The early 1970s prompted a small cadre of Williamsburgers to attend the monthly meetings of the Hampton Roads Bird Club held at what was then the Peninsula Nature and Science Center (now the Virginia Living Museum) in Newport News. Mitchell Byrd along with Ruth and Sherwin Beck would load up their respective vehicles with friends and students interested in birds to travel to the meetings.

Bill Williams, an erstwhile graduate student of Dr. Byrd's, broached the subject of a local bird club with Ruth Beck in the spring of 1977, suggesting that it was time for such an organization to form for Williamsburg. Bill was the current Treasurer of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, having succeeded Ruth in that capacity, and thus had access to the names of all the local VSO members who could serve as the nucleus for the new club. Bill also knew from his acquaintance with Bill Sheehan, bird aficionado and then Commanding Officer at Cheatham Annex, that there was the potential for community support for such a group. It seemed only logical with the growing cadre of William and Mary ornithology students in the area, and an apparent motivating interest from Williamsburg residents that a spin off from the Hampton Roads Club was in order.

Bill and Ruth agreed that an organizational meeting for September 1977 needed to be planned. Ruth took on the responsibility of securing the support of the college by having the Biology Department sponsor the club, thus enabling the group to meet at no cost on campus in one of the department's Millington Hall classrooms, a practice that continues to the present.

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A letter of invitation announcing a bird club organizational meeting event was drafted and sent to Williamsburg area VSO members and other interested community citizens in August 1977. The positive response at the September 1977 gathering clearly indicated that there was a high degree of interest for a club to organize. I give a special thanks to Dr. Byrd and Bill Williams, and I wish Ruth Beck were still among us to also receive our heartfelt thanks.

I end this month's Corner with a reminder of the Breeding Bird Atlas Training that is scheduled in April. Come and learn how easily you can be involved. We are exploring many fun ways of surveying in our assigned blocks, including working in mini teams and conducting a monthly first Saturday walk/survey in a close by priority block. Don't miss out on the fun!! Mark your calendar and do your part in the Year of the Bird.

Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Training by Ashley Peele (Project Coordinator who is based at the Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech) and Dave Youker (a member of WBC and Region 11 Leader).

Date: April 13, 2018, 9:30-12:30.

Location: Freedom Park Training Room.

Directions: From Interstate 64 take exit 234A to Route 199. From Route 199 take the Longhill Road exit. Turn right onto Longhill Road (Route 612). Follow Longhill Road until it ends at the park gates. Once inside the park gates, follow road to the parking lot.

A CALL TO ACTION

By Cheryl Jacobson

At the March 21, 2018 meeting, Dr. Dan Cristol's presentation stimulated an overwhelming need for the WBC members who were present to write letters to address their concerns about the attack on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) by HR 4239. It became clear that HR 4239 is an "energy security" bill that is meant to help energy companies. When companies have failed to adopt common sense practices and their activities have led to bird deaths (incidental take), the MBTA provides a critical tool for accountability through enforcement of the law by issuing penalties in egregious cases (see Cathy Millar's article below for more detail). An amendment by Liz Cheney makes it clear that the government will no longer prosecute for incidental take and would in fact result in corporations no longer being held responsible for harm to birds. If passed, events such as the oil spill by BP would go unmediated.

Dr. Cristol provided the following points for addressing concerns to your representatives:

- You are an environmental voter and want the Migratory Bird Treaty Act protected;
- Birdwatching is good for Virginia's economy;
- Birds are declining nationwide;
- HR 4239 is a give-away to energy companies;
- Corporations must be held responsible for "incidental take" of birds;
- You expect your representative to protect your birds, not oil companies in Louisiana or Wyoming;
- It is the role of government to protect common resources such as birds.

Addresses and phone numbers of our congressmen follow:

- Rob Wittman, 2055 Rayburn House Office Building; (202) 225-4261
 - Donald McEachin, 314 Cannon House Office Building; (202) 225-6365
 - Scott Taylor, 412 Cannon House Office Building; (202) 225-4215
 - Bobby Scott, 1201 Longworth House Office Building; (202) 225-8351
 - Dave Brat, 1628 Longworth House Office Building; (202) 225-2815
- All at: Washington DC 20515

Thank you Dr. Cristol and every WBC member who participates in this vital call to action.

TAKING A STAND FOR BIRDS

By Cathy Millar

The focus of our March program reflected the purpose of our Club as written in our Constitution and Bylaws: "to promote interest in the study of wild birds and in the protection of birds and their habitats." Our very own Dr. Dan Cristol, Chancellor

Professor of Biology at W&M, was the speaker. He inspired us to write to our congresspersons to tell them to vote against HR4239 which attacks the Migratory Bird Treaty Act by first reviewing the increasing challenges birds are facing worldwide. He noted that he'd been Vice President of Programs when he first joined the Club and was scheduling monthly speakers who presented different aspects of the dangers that birds face until, after a while, he was advised by the then president that the presentations needed to be apolitical and more uplifting. He had since complied but on this night, 20 years later, he returned to those topics.

First on the list of major causes for the steady decline in the bird population was habitat destruction and modification. He explained that every acre of housing, crops or shops is an acre less of birds because the birds that bred there are forced out and there is nowhere for them to go unless they drive out an established breeding bird in another area. Other birds will not allow them to just squeeze in so the world's population of the species that had once lived there is gone! Only a few species that can live in urban and suburban areas benefit from development resulting in seeing more of the same birds.

Second cause is climate change that directly affects birds by the sea level rising which wipes out nesting habitats where the sea and land meet. Before humans impacted the landscape, marshes and beaches would move inland and back out in response to climate change cycles, but now roads and houses have hemmed them in. As a result, the most endangered birds are those that nest in salt marshes, beaches and oceanic islands. Bird colonies are already being wiped out. Another effect of climate change is on birds that live in the far north or those who live on mountain tops like kinglets and creepers that are gradually being squeezed out as the climate warms and their habitat moves further upward in response. Even if we dramatically decided to address climate warming, there is a huge lag time from all the carbon that has been released where things are going to get worse. How adaptable the birds are remains to be seen, but it is changing how we protect them. Already much larger areas are needed to protect endangered species to allow for greater movement of plants and animals in response to climate induced change of habitat.

Third threat is invasive species which is an emerging one as the climate changes and species can live in places that used to be too cold for them. Examples were given that included nonnative mosquitoes that can carry diseases like avian malaria, competing nonnative species of birds, and plants that wipe out native plants that support bird life. This is playing out on a large scale in Hawaii. Invasive plants are the greatest concern but Dan gave a case of how Mute Swans that had escaped from people's ponds and become common here were ripping out all the submerged aquatic vegetation so there was little left for migratory swans and ducks.

Fourth threat is pollution. Pesticides are the greatest concern. Historically, there have been two previous waves of toxic pesticides that killed birds: DDT and organophosphates. The current wave of pesticides features neonicotinoids, which is absorbed by plants making the entire plant including the pollen and nectar toxic to insects including honeybees. Compared to the previous insecticides, it appears less toxic to birds and mammals but is causing a loss of birds due to a crash in insect populations in areas where it is widely used. Dan noted that the pesticide companies are essentially self-policed as the EPA allows companies to test their own chemicals and present data that the pesticides are safe. This accounts for many chemicals being released and only years later do we find they are dangerous.

Fifth threat is the pet trade and illegal hunting. The pet trade is less of a problem now because about ten years ago the threat of avian influenza shut down the markets in North America and Europe that were fueling the import of parrots from South America and has led to the ban of wild caught birds. However, trade in birds still thrives in third world countries. Hunting in this country is not a problem as it is very well regulated. But many countries don't have any regulatory laws and many of those that do will not enforce them. He showed a disturbing photo of a truckload of dead songbirds that a pair of hunters in Lebanon had legally killed.

Sixth threat is outdoor cats that kill at least one billion birds in North America each year. Dan stated times have changed, and it is no longer acceptable to let cats outdoors. He asked that we educate family and friends. Feral colonies of cats that are neutered and fed are still a major problem for birds.

Seventh threat is another emerging one as we build taller structures such as cell towers, wind turbines and buildings which result in the deaths of a million birds annually. He illustrated this threat with a photo of several hundred migratory birds killed in just one night in May 2017 by hitting a Texas office building. Lighted skyscrapers on coastal migratory routes are a major issue. The circumstances for such tragedies especially occur during the period of migration when there is good weather as the sun goes down and lots of birds take off, then bad weather sets in and forces them to fly lower and be attracted to lights. This happens many nights with thousands of towers and buildings during migration, and there are only so many birds. They can't sustain this loss forever!

As if all the foregoing isn't enough, yet another serious threat has appeared. The eighth threat is happening right now as Congress is considering an amendment that would undo a major part of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. The bill is

currently stalled but can slip through at any moment. The key part of the MBTA states: “It is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, possess, sell, purchase, barter, import, export or transport any migratory bird or any part of a nest or egg of any such bird, unless authorized under a permit issued by the Secretary of Interior.” Dan explained that it covers all birds, except nonnatives species, as birds just moving from one yard to another are considered migratory in this case. Nests are protected only when active. The vague legal word, “take,” in the bill is being debated. Up until now, one was held responsible for ‘incidental takes’ wherein birds are killed by accident. The government has never prosecuted small incidental takes. But because of the MBTA, BP was held responsible for the recent oil spill in the Gulf that killed over a million birds and was successfully prosecuted and had to pay a lot of money to remake the habitat. A Liz Cheney Amendment has since been added to HR4239, the SECURE American Energy Act, which is a bill seeking to free energy companies from regulations that would otherwise impede exploration and development especially on federal lands. The Cheney Amendment ends any enforcement of incidental take such as open oil waste pits, high tension power lines, wind turbines, and non-target pesticide poisoning. The Cheney Amendment incidentally applies to marine mammals and turtles. It also restricts future presidents from changing it without a new law being passed.

Dan emphasized that the First Amendment protects our right to petition the government for redress of grievances and that doing so is a patriotic act regardless of political persuasions. Papers, envelopes and pens provided by the WBC were passed around as Dan posted the names and addresses of our congressmen and suggested talking points to include in our letters expressing concern about the proposed change to the MBTA. The written letters were then collected and later stamped (again courtesy of our Club) and mailed. I personally have never felt prouder of the Williamsburg Bird Club as 50 members took a stand for birds that night!

**Please do your part to make your voice heard for birds;
See our Club President’s Call to Action article above for how you can make an impact.**

APRIL 14TH BIRD WALK AT CHICKAHOMINY RIVERFRONT PARK

By Jim Corliss



Our April 14th bird walk will take place at the Chickahominy Riverfront Park beginning at 8:00 am. The park provides nice views over the Chickahominy River and its tributaries around Gordon’s Island. There are also some wooded areas and open fields, so we expect to find a wide variety of bird life.

Nancy Barnhart will be our leader. When heading west on Route 5 (John Tyler Highway), the park is located on the right side of the road just prior to crossing the bridge over the Chickahominy River. After turning onto the park road, drive a short distance around the swimming pool and playground area and park in the lot on the left marked by a sign for “Trailhead Parking.”

WBC FIELD TRIP APRIL 21, 2018

Geoff Giles has planned the next field trip to nearby locations of the Chickahominy Riverfront Park and a private property on the Charles City side of the Chickahominy River. The Park is located at 1350 John Tyler Highway, Williamsburg, VA 23185. This park is owned by James City County, and it possesses amazing habitat along the Chickahominy River and Gordon’s Creek. Meet at 8:00 am at the parking lot at the park located immediately after you exit John Tyler Highway.

Have you ever wondered how surveying for the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas differs from a regular bird walk outing? If so this will be a great opportunity to expand your skills to observe more bird behavior. Our guide will be Matt Anthony, a soon to graduate student from William and Mary and one of the best birders in Virginia. Matt has been very supportive of our club and you have probably seen him on some of our field trips. He often completes the eBird lists for us. Behaviors you will learn about will include singing males, courtship display, carrying nest material, nest building, and some other behaviors that will occur later in the breeding season.

UPDATES FROM THE COASTAL VIRGINIA WILDLIFE OBSERVATORY

By Brian Taber

The College Creek Hawkwatch, on the Colonial Parkway began in February and runs through most of May. It's operated by the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory and is in its 22nd year. Volunteers from the WBC include Nancy Barnhart, Shirley Devan, Brian Taber, and Bill Williams. On March 16, the Hawkwatch recorded its second-best day ever at 217, which at this time of year is mostly turkey vultures, with more diversity expected in April. Results for hawkwatches can be seen at the hawkcount.org site operated by the Hawk Migration Association of North America.

Additionally, we are currently monitoring Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes at the Powhatan Creek Trail in conjunction with the Virginia Commonwealth University and in partnership with James City County Parks and Recreation. Shirley Devan has banded chicks there over the past three years.

VA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING CONVENES IN HARRISONBURG MAY 18 - 20, 2018

By Shirley Devan

You won't want to miss this year's exciting meeting in the beautiful mountain and valley region of western Virginia. Plan on finding some of the birds in Virginia's Mountains and Valleys Region that you don't see often and learn more about breeding bird behavior. The field trips will provide great opportunities to see unique high elevation breeding species and support the Second Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas (VABBA2).

Saturday field trips will focus on deficient atlas areas of Rockingham and Highland counties that overlap with birding hotspots. Sunday field trips will go to local birding hotspots, as always. Expert atlas volunteers and field trip leaders will guide you each day. Field trip destinations include several areas in Shenandoah National Park, George Washington National Forest, Switzer Dam, and Lake Shenandoah.

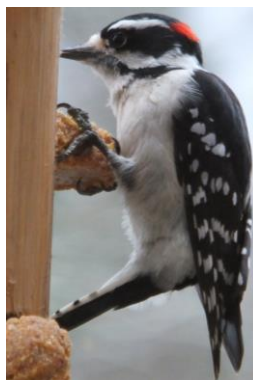
The itinerary includes a Friday evening business meeting followed by a presentation on area field trips. Nathan Pieplow will be Saturday's keynote speaker at the banquet. His presentation "Listen to Her Sing," dispels the widespread notion that only male birds sing and explores the often-overlooked songs of female birds. Nathan is the author of the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds (Eastern Region), which was published in March 2017. He teaches writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Nathan has agreed to lead a field trip exploring female bird songs on Sunday morning; spots on this field trip will be raffled.

The cost of all field trips is included in the registration fee — \$90 which includes the Saturday night banquet. The brand-new Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center will be the headquarters for this meeting. The VSO has secured special rates of \$129 for a single or \$139 for double occupancy. Parking is \$5 per day. Reserve your room by calling the Hotel Madison at 540-564-0200 or emailing the hotel at reservations@hotelmadison.com; identify yourself as a Virginia Society of Ornithology member to receive these special rates. You can also reserve your room online by going to the hotel website, www.hotelmadison.com, clicking on the reservations link and using the **code: AVSO18518** in the group/promo area. Be sure to register for your hotel room by April 18, 2018 to receive the special VSO rates.

REPORTED SIGHTINGS AND ACTIVITY FROM MARCH 2018

(Photo credit is attributed to authors of the sightings, unless otherwise noted)

March 14th: Cathy Flanagan reports she has been happily birding her backyard filled with the Eastern Bluebird (far right), Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler, Carolina Wren, and Downy Woodpecker (right).





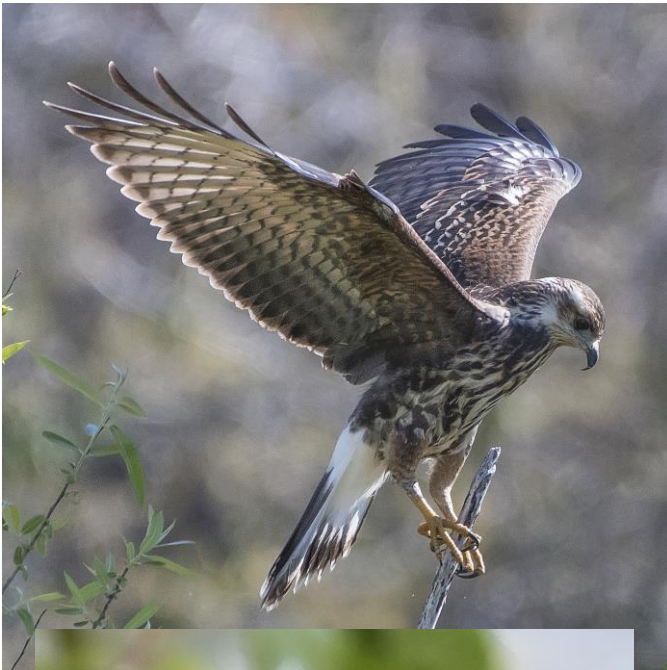
March 16th: Keith Kennedy shares a handsome American Kestrel (photo left) while on the Dutch Gap Conservation Trip.

Sharon Plocher shares that a crew including herself, Gwen and Walt Harris, and Jennifer Trevino (pictured



right) installed Noel guards on the 40 bluebird boxes at Newport News Park as they prepared for the 2018 bluebird season.

Craig Hill shares sightings of a Snail Kite (below left), White Ibis (below right), and Green Heron (far left below) during a walk through the Sweetwater Wetlands Park near Gainesville, FL last week with his wife. A Common Gallinule with chick (far right below) was spotted in Circle B Bar Reserve near Lakeland, FL. This was their second trip to Florida this year.



March 17th: WBC Treasurer, Ann Carpenter, shares that the WBC received thank you letters from the Historic Virginia Land Conservancy and the Williamsburg Library for donations from our Club.

March 18th: Jan Lockwood shares Royal Terns (right) awaiting the departure of the Williamsburg-Scotland Ferry.

March 19th: Jim Corliss shared a nice surprise flock of Cedar Waxwings (below) who enjoyed his birdbath that morning.



March 22nd: Jan Lockwood reports up to five Brown Pelicans (below left) have graced their presence at the Queens Creek Dam and Marina. Two were first seen on Saturday, March 17. The next morning one of them performed a slow "flyby" down the Creek, delighting Rick Brown, Jan Lockwood, and Sue Mutell, who were watching from the floating dock at New Quarter Park. Since then the pelicans have rested and fished their way up and down the creek and around the marina area. The birders have not seen the Brown Pelicans in this location previously.



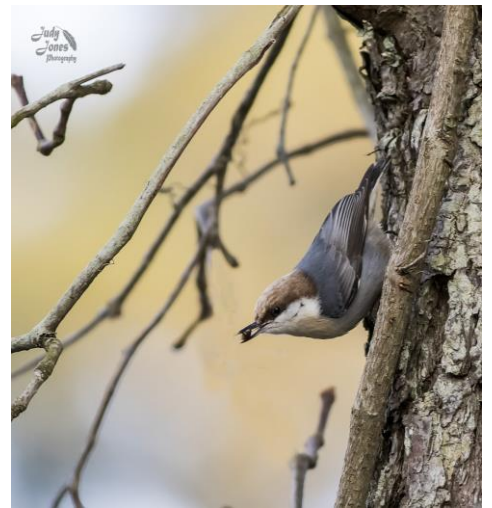
Jan Lockwood welcomed this first of season Great Egret (below) beside the Queens Creek Dam.



Judy Jones shares her sighting of a Brown-headed Nuthatch (photo right) at Chincoteague.

March 23rd: Tom McCary reports that the winds had kept his yard birds hunkered down, but on this day perhaps 150 Cedar Waxwings visited his front yard. Tom shares that the waxwings were not foraging but rather taking a break.

March 24th: SnowGoosapalooza!! Bringier McConnell reports while visiting in-laws near Lancaster, PA, he drove out into the country looking for a late-leaving duck or two when he stumbled on 10,000 Snow Geese (pictured below) covering a lake, fields and seemingly half the sky at Middle River WMA. What an extraordinary experience to be literally surrounded by such avian abundance. One of the great birding days of his life, as Bringier expressed, "It felt like being present at creation!"



March 25th: Cheryl Jacobson shares a Black-crowned Night Heron (photo left) in breeding plumage at Lake Joyce, where a very high, high tide at Pleasure House Point (below right) resulted in flooded trails and birds pushed to near-by Lake Joyce.



March 26th: Inge Curtis reports her Peregrine Falcon sightings (three photos below). She sends the following, “he sought a blackbird and is eating a portion before taking the rest to his mate.”



March 28th: Cathy Flanagan shares her Brown Pelican sightings (photos below).



BILL WILLIAMS RECEIVES GIFT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOCAL BIRDING INITIATIVES

By Nancy Barnhart

Forty plus years ago, Bill Williams brought the Williamsburg Bird Club to life and served as its first president. He repeated in that role in 2017 as we celebrated the Club's 40th Anniversary. Some folks might not know that in 1977 while he was busy starting the Club, Bill was also launching the Hawkwatch at Kiptopeke State Park on the Eastern Shore. This many years later, both of those projects are thriving which is a tribute to Bill and his efforts.

The Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory maintains the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch with a paid hawk counter every fall. The last two years, we have been fortunate to have as our hawk counter a young woman, Anna Stunkel, who is not only an outstanding birder but also a brilliant wildlife artist. When we knew we wanted something special as a thank-you for Bill, we asked Anna if she would like to be involved. She agreed saying she would be thrilled to help in our effort to honor Bill. We commissioned Anna, agreed on an idea, and she ran with it. So, it was with tremendous gratitude and appreciation for another outstanding year of leadership of the Williamsburg Bird Club that we presented Bill with the original Anna Stunkel drawing of our logo bird, the Red-headed Woodpecker. Photo above from left: Nancy Barnhart, Cheryl Jacobson, Bill Williams.



BIRD WALK AT LAKE MATOAKA AND COLLEGE WOODS MARCH 10TH

Photo by Nancy Barnhart

The change in venue for our bird walks speaks for itself with this wonderful photo of a flock of birders enjoying the walk at Lake Matoaka and College Woods.



NEW QUARTER PARK (NQP) BIRD WALK MARCH 24TH

By Ruth Gordon

We were fortunate to have clear, albeit chilly, weather, and birds that cooperated for a successful outing. We also got to meet new people, one of whom was a student from a local elementary school. She spotted a Hermit Thrush near the pathway, a first bird for her, and we called it her bird. Hope she will join us again and her escort-father, too. Check out the walk's eBird checklist here:

<https://ebird.org/shared?subID=UzQzOTYyMjQz&s=t>

MARCH 11TH FIELD TRIP TO CURLES NECK PLANTATION

By Cheryl Jacobson



One of the bonuses of attending WBC meetings is being first to sign up for field trips that have limited participant numbers. Such was the case for our popular field trip to one of the great James River Plantations, Curles Neck, which has been in active use for almost 400 years and remains a privately-owned working farm not currently open to the public.

On March 11, 2018, 20 lucky WBC members joined Ellison Orcult, a premier Virginia birder and the leader for the Curles Neck field trip. Those with a quick eye were instructed by Ellison to observe a Cackling Goose flying with a group of Canada Geese. They were able to observe that the Cackling goose was of smaller size with a short neck, tiny bill, and a lighter

body color than the Canada's.

This area is wonderful for observing Snow Geese, but they had just recently migrated leaving over 2,000 Canada Geese to observe. Our duck friends were still present, and the group observed nine beautiful Wood Ducks and many Northern Shovelers, Gadwalls, Mallards, American Black Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks. Other treats were great views of the ten Wilson's Snipe, over 150 Tree Swallows, and nine Horned Larks.

WELCOME NEW WBC MEMBERS – WE LOOK FORWARD TO BIRDING WITH YOU!

Karen Kellog, Richard and Pat Murphy, and Robert & Annemarie Wojtal

SUPPORT OUR LOCALLY OWNED BIRD STORES & FELLOW WBC MEMBERS!

Backyard Birder



Backyard Birder Seed & Supply located in Williamsburg at the Quarterpath Shopping Center (near the Kingsmill Harris Teeter) supports the WBC through donations and a 10% discount on purchases for WBC members. For your discount in-store, please inform them you are a WBC member during checkout. <https://www.backyardbirder.org>



Wild Birds Unlimited located in Williamsburg at Settler's Market in New Town supports the WBC through donations and a 5% rebate on the pre-tax amount spent in store by WBC members. Please inform them you are a WBC member during checkout. <https://williamsburg.wbu.com/>

CALENDAR

April 13 - 9:30 am	Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Training, Freedom Park Training Room
April 14 - 8 am	WBC sponsors a Bird Walk at Chickahominy Riverfront Park
April 18 - 7 pm	WBC Meeting & Program (Grant Recipients), W&M Andrews Hall, Room 101
April 21 - 8 am	WBC Field Trip, Chickahominy Riverfront Park with Matt Anthony
April 28 - 8 am	WBC sponsors a Bird Walk at New Quarter Park
April 29	The Flyer submissions are due for May 2018's publication; please submit all articles, sightings and activity to: 1backyardbirder@gmail.com .
May 12 - 8 am	WBC sponsors a Bird Walk at Bassett Trace
May 16 - 7 pm	WBC Meeting & Program (Susan Powell), W&M Andrews Hall, Room 101
May 18-20	VSO Annual Meeting, Harrisonburg, VA