



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 43 No. 1

williamsburgbirdclub.org

January 2019

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Cheryl Jacobson



I hope you all have had a great holiday season! Perhaps Santa placed eco-friendly products under your tree, as he did at the Jacobson house. Five households were present on Christmas morning and each received a set of three eco-friendly products, as shown in the photo. These included reusable folding grocery bags,

eco-friendly breathable and washable dishwasher safe mesh produce bags, and reusable beeswax wraps. If Santa missed your household with these products, they are all available on line. You can also find many other products that might meet your needs, such as bioDOGrable poop bags for your pets, washable straws, and heavy-duty, eco-friendly machine washable, reusable bamboo towels that one roll replaces six months of paper towels. Many of these products can be found at:

<https://www.amazon.com/eco-friendly-products20products>.

The Year of the Bird and Beyond 2018/2019. Protect the Environment/Help Birds in 2019



Reading about the environment can sometimes seem like a depressing litany of fading species, increased development, and a warming planet. But there are reasons to be hopeful. Each year, the global extinction risk to all bird species is assessed by BirdLife International and the 2018 update has just been released. [Breeding Bird Atlases](#) were particularly instrumental in informing the knowledge of changes to species' distribution and abundance.

Positive news concerns the Henslow's Sparrow and our beloved Club Symbol, the Red-headed Woodpecker, both of which have been "down-listed" from globally Near Threatened to Least Concern. The reason for their improving global status is that population declines have stabilized in their core ranges in eastern and central regions of the United States as a direct result of habitat management (forest thinning for the woodpecker, and environmental subsidies paid to farmers for the sparrow).

(Continued Page 2)

PROGRAMS

**W&M Integrated Science Center, Room 1127
7 pm**

By Judy Jones

Atlantic Coastal Birds – January 16th

Bob Schamerhorn will return to share his wonderful photographs in a talk entitled

"Atlantic Coastal Birds." The Atlantic Coastline contains a great diversity of bird species: Gulls,



Terns, Skimmers, Sandpipers, Plovers, Herons, Egrets, Swans, Ducks, Geese, Mergansers, Grebes, Rails, and more. This wide variety of species, typical to the coast, will be discussed, intertwining beautiful photography with information about our favorite shorebirds, discussion of habitats, migration, and the challenges the species face. This program covers the coast from Maine to Florida and is a wonderful preview for our Chesapeake Bay boat trip on January 20th.

Future Williamsburg Bird Club (WBC) Programs

Bird Conservation in the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) - February 20th

Sergio Harding from DGIF will be our guest speaking and sharing with us bird conservation programs sponsored by DGIF.

Fascinating Feathers - March 20th

In March, we will be hosting wildlife rehabilitator, Maureen Eiger, who will be speaking about the biology of feathers. Her talk, Fascinating Feathers, is an in-depth study of bird feathers, answering many of the questions birders have about this important aspect of bird biology.



WBC EXECUTIVE BOARD 2019



President 303-519-0989
Cheryl Jacobson jcheryljoy@aol.com

Vice-President (Programs) 757-293-8297
Judy Jones jjones184@cox.net

Vice-President (The Flyer) 252-259-2809
Melinda Cousins lbackyardbirder@gmail.com

Treasurer 757-221-6683
Ann Carpenter carpent66@cox.net

Secretary 757-229-1775
Cathy Millar millar.cathy@gmail.com

Member-at-Large 757-221-6683
Gary Carpenter carpent66@cox.net

Member-at-Large 757-813-1322
Shirley Devan sedevan52@cox.net

Past President 757-229-1124
Bill Williams billwilliams154@gmail.com

Committee Chairpersons

Membership 757-707-3345
Jeanette Navia jnavia@gmail.com

Field Trips 571-535-7444
George Martin grm0803@gmail.com
Deane Gordan deanegordon@gmail.com

Bird Counts/Bird Walks 757-565-0536
Jim Corliss jcorliss240@cox.net

Records 757-229-1124
Bill Williams billwilliams154@gmail.com

Library Liaison 757-565-6148
Lee Schuster dljschuster@cox.net

Refreshments 347-879-1997
Catherine Flanagan flanagan.catherine@gmail.com

Webmistress 757-707-3345
Jeanette Navia jnavia@gmail.com

Historian 757- 771-2791
Rose Ryan whisperingwind10875@gmail.com

Liaison to CVWO 540-454-3014
Nancy Barnhart barnhartnt@gmail.com

What Can You Do:

Perhaps your New Year's resolution will be to switch to one or more eco-friendly products. For any good or service that you buy today from the market, you will find that there is an eco-friendly alternative also found. You can also cut back on your household waste by using less disposable stuff and using more reusable material. There is an impact on the environment for every small thing that we do in our daily life, and if we shift towards eco-friendly products, we can contribute to saving our environment, work towards sustainability, and help the birds we all love. Simply put, by using more environmentally safe products, we reduce pollution and contamination of the natural resources such as the air, water, and soil, all which helps birds.

Meet Your Board:

Our Club is very fortunate in having many dedicated members who donate freely of their time and talents in support of the goals of the WBC. I have been honored to get to know many of them at club meetings, on bird walks and field trips, and through the board and committee meetings. Many of you know one another very well, but we also have many new members who may not have had the opportunity to interact with the board and committee chairs. Because of this, I have decided to add a new aspect to my President's Corner. Each month, I will introduce a board member or committee chair by having them write a few paragraphs about themselves. Gary and Ann Carpenter have agreed to begin this effort. Here are their stories:

Ann and Gary Carpenter have been members of the WBC since 2007. Ann took over as Treasurer in 2011 and has been re-elected to that position ever since. Gary became a Member-at-Large of the Board in 2017. They have been active birders since the late 1980s. Their interest in birding began at that time when visiting Ann's parents in Venice, Florida. While on beach walks, they began wondering about the identities of the many birds they saw. This led to the purchase of their first field guides, and by identifying those birds, their interest in birding was sparked. At this time, they were Resident Associates of the Smithsonian Institute and upon returning to their home in Silver Spring, Maryland, discovered that the Smithsonian offered day and overnight tours of the great birding spots around the Washington D.C. area. Those tours took them to such places as Bombay Hook, Prime Hook, the Delaware Seashore, the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, Chincoteague, Cape May, and Kiptopeke State Park among many others. They took part in their first Christmas Bird Counts on the Eastern Shore (a number of them around Oyster, VA) with one of their Smithsonian mentors as count leader.

Favorite birds? Without a doubt, the Resplendent Quetzal, that they saw while on a Road Scholar birding tour in Costa Rica (see their photo). Despite the breathtaking diversity of the birds they saw in Costa Rica, and despite a wonderfully exciting tour of the Galapagos Islands, their favorite birding spot is southeastern Arizona. There, near Fort Huachuca, they found a wonderful B&B (The Casa de San Pedro) that caters to birders and to which they have returned a number of times. In fact, it was on Fort Huachuca that they had their proudest moment as birders.



(Continued Page 3)

They had been directed to an area on the grounds of the fort that was said to have their target bird. After spending several hours walking the area, and on the verge of leaving, they spotted their target, the Elegant Trogon!

Ann was born just outside of Chicago but moved to the Washington D.C. area when she was only eight months old. Gary is a second generation native of Washington D.C. The Silver Spring, Maryland suburbs of D.C. remained their home until they retired to Williamsburg in 2005. Their future plans are to remain members of and enjoy the WBC, to continue to participate in Christmas and Spring Bird Counts, and to remain on the Board for at least awhile longer.

Have a wonderful New Year, and I look forward to seeing you on January 16, 2019!

JANUARY 20TH - WBC BOAT TRIP TO THE CBBT TUNNEL ISLANDS

By George Martin

The Williamsburg Bird Club is sponsoring a boat trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel islands on Sunday, January 20, 2019. Geoff Giles has chartered a large, comfortable boat for this eye-level look at bay ducks, sea ducks, shorebirds, raptors, and more! The last few years, this trip has given the group some views of and photo ops of Humpbacked Whales and Harbor Seals.



Birding and photo opportunities should be very good from the boat. The boat will likely go as far as Fisherman Island near the Eastern Shore, and then out to the capes near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay if the birds are there. The CBBT area tends to have smoother water than ocean trips, with many of the same exciting views of birds. It will be possible to do some birding from the warm, dry cabin, but the best views and photo opportunities will be from outside on deck. Clothing that protects against wind and dampness is highly recommended. The boat has ample heated cabin space with seating and tables. It's equipped with rest rooms.

The group should be at the boat, the Bay Princess, by 8:30 a.m. for a 9 a.m. sailing. Those who wish to carpool should gather at the Colony Square Shopping Center on Jamestown Road, and leave there no later than 7:30 a.m. The dock at Lynnhaven Inlet is at 3311 Shore Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. The captain plans to return the boat to the dock at 1 p.m. Geoff recommends the seafood restaurant at the dock for those who would like to have lunch after the trip.

The cost for the trip is \$30 per person. Please send your check, payable to "Williamsburg Bird Club," to:
Club Treasurer, Attention: Ann Carpenter
PO Box 764
Lightfoot, VA 23090
Please include your email address and phone number!

Also, please note that WBC members will be given preference until Saturday, January 5, 2019. After January 5, the WBC will open the trip to other participants.

For additional information, please contact George Martin at grm0803@gmail.com, or by phone at 757-920-5403. Or, pull up the Williamsburg Bird Club website, <http://williamsburgbirdclub.org>.

FEBRUARY 16TH – DUTCH GAP FIELD TRIP

By George Martin

Save Saturday, February 16th, for a field trip to duck-rich Dutch Gap Conservation Area in Chesterfield County. Rose Ryan will lead the walk, which is expected to provide good looks at many common waterfowl species. More information to follow!

REPORTED SIGHTINGS AND ACTIVITY FROM DECEMBER 2018 & EARLY JANUARY 2019

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

December 16

During the Christmas Bird Count, a colorful addition was spotted at Jim Booth's feeder. A wonderful photo of this Yellow-throated Warbler inviting us to enjoy the holidays!



December 28

Rexanne Bruno reported a first-year female Baltimore Oriole (BAOR) visiting her feeder for three days (12/17, 19 & 20). Although Rexanne had this welcome visitor, she stated, "Unfortunately, I didn't see it on the day of the Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count but heard there were others seen that day. I've heard there are several Baltimore Orioles in the Williamsburg area (including others in Ford's Colony)."

Sharon Plocher shared quite a story, "This Barred Owl flew through my screened porch. He wasn't hurt but it messed up my screen. I put a beach towel on him and took him outside. He thanked me and flew away."

Nancy Barnhart shares some unique, backyard visitors, "a pretty little ghost, Tufted Titmouse (leucistic or albino), a female Purple Finch, and Wild Turkeys.



January 1

Elbert Cutright shares a photo of the snowfall.

January 3 & 4



Kathy reports a few surprises of a Belted Kingfisher using a bluebird house as a hunting perch, a Bald Eagle fishing near a lake, and a Great Blue Heron on top of a shed eyeing its hunting grounds. And a bird of a different feather checking out her, um, feeder...

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR - RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Please see the attached form and renew your Williamsburg Bird Club membership today!



2019 NEW YEAR'S DAY AT GREENSPRINGS INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

By Shirley Devan



So glad to see so many folks at Greensprings Interpretive Trail on Tuesday to start off 2019 with birds! We tallied 36 Homo sapiens and 23 avian species! See Lisa Garris' great photo of a male Green-winged Teal, a target species for this spot every year on January 1st! Look for a couple more of Lisa's photos on the WBC Facebook page! Thanks again to helping me celebrate my favorite holiday! All the best and the best birds to you in the coming year! Find the checklist of birds here:

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S51250695>.

DECEMBER 22ND - NEW QUARTER PARK (NQP) BIRD WALK

By Nancy Barnhart

The birds were still sleeping this morning, maybe too much Solstice yesterday. Seven birders worked hard to find 27 species, many around the feeders. Nevertheless, it was a very pleasant morning and always fun trying!



DECEMBER 8TH- BIRD WALK AT CHICAHOMINY RIVERFRONT PARK

By Shirley Devan



The Bird Club held its second Saturday bird walk at CRP, and 46 species were identified. Nancy Barnhart led the way. 15 people including Nancy enjoyed the bird walk. Here's a photo of part of the group looking over Gordon Creek. Check out the bird list here:

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S50523106>.

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

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

January 12 - 8 am	WBC Bird Walk, College Creek Beach.
January 16 - 7 pm	WBC Monthly Meeting (details on page 1).
January 20 - 8:30 am	Boat Tour of the CBBT Tunnel Islands (details on page 3).
January 26 - 8 am	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park.
January 27	All Flyer submissions are due for inclusion in February's newsletter; please submit all sightings, articles, and activity to 1backyardbirder@gmail.com .
February 20 - 7 pm	WBC Monthly Meeting (details on page 1).
February 16	Field Trip to Dutch Gap (more info to follow).
March 20 - 7 pm	WBC Monthly Meeting (details on page 1).



Williamsburg Bird Club
PO Box 1085
Williamsburg, VA 23187