

The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

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April/May 2020

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Cheryl J. Jacobson



BIRDS AND CONSERVATION IN THE TIME OF A PANDEMIC

Hello to all my WBC Friends:

I am going to begin with an excerpt from a news release from the Office of the Governor of Virginia dated March 30, 2020:

Governor Ralph Northam today issued a statewide Stay at Home order to protect the health and safety of Virginians and mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The executive order takes effect immediately and will remain in place until June 10, 2020, unless amended or rescinded by a further executive order. The order directs all Virginians to stay home except in extremely limited circumstances. Individuals may leave their residence for allowable travel, including to seek medical attention, work, care for family or household members, obtain goods and services like groceries, prescriptions, and others as outlined in Executive Order Fifty-Three, and engage in outdoor activity with strict social distancing requirements.

One of the truly difficult aspects of this virus is how much I am missing all of you and the opportunities to see you, go birding together, enjoy our monthly meetings, and share our love of birds! I want to thank all of you who have made changes in your lives and have been staying at home in order to do your part to keep yourself and our community safe. Governor Northam said, "We are in a public health crisis, and we need everyone to take this seriously and act responsibly. Our message to Virginians is clear: stay home...I'm deeply grateful to everyone for their cooperation during this unprecedented and difficult time."

WBC is endorsing the Governor's order by doing our Spring Bird Count in a new way—in our backyard and neighborhood. Please see Jim Corliss's article (this page) about WBC's Global Big Day event for more detail. I know that in the future we will be able to fully engage in the bird-related things that we enjoy.
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PROGRAMS

In accordance with the Governor of Virginia's statewide Stay at Home order, extending at this time until June 10, 2020, there are no WBC monthly membership meetings and programs, bird walks, or field trips scheduled at this time. Membership meetings and programs are normally held on the third Wednesday of the month in Andrews Hall on the College of William and Mary campus at 7:00 pm. Scheduled Club activities can always be found on the [calendar](#) on our website.

PARTICIPATE IN WBC's GLOBAL BIG DAY EVENT – MAY 9TH

By Jim Corliss

On Saturday May 9th, eBird is hosting a *Global Big Day* for birders all around the world. The goal is to collect as many eBird checklists as possible in 24 hours. In last year's *Global Big Day* a total of 92,284 checklists were submitted. Team eBird is hoping to surpass 100,000 checklists this year!



Eastern Bluebird.
Photo by Inge Curtis

Because we've needed to cancel our club activities this Spring, the *Global Big Day* is a great opportunity for us to come together (virtually) and collect bird data as a replacement for our annual Spring Bird Count. Everyone can participate, and we'll compile and publish the results from all of the checklists that we submit among Williamsburg Bird Club members, Historic River Master Naturalists, and other community members who would like to contribute. The event will work as follows:

1. Count birds at home or in your neighborhood following safe, social-distancing guidelines. Count anytime, or multiple times, from midnight to midnight on Saturday May 9th. Multiple checklists are encouraged if you plan to spend several short periods of time watching birds throughout the day.
(Continued on Page 3, left column)

WBC EXECUTIVE BOARD 2020

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President's Corner (Continued from Page 1)

Update First Bird of the Year/My Year of the Owl

Each New Year I have been sharing with you what species I first saw or heard and have called it my Bird of the Year. For 2020 it is the Owl. To illustrate what wonderful sightings can be found in your yard or neighborhood I am sharing my recent photo of a Barred Owlet.



Barred Owlet. Photo by Cheryl Jacobson.

Conservation Partners

WBC has many community, state, and some international partners that all share similar goals of protecting our environment and preserving our bird populations. Some of them are the Virginia Society of Ornithology, Community Cloud Forest Conservation, Center for Conservation Biology, and Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO). It is important that we continue to support these organizations during this difficult time. It has become necessary for them to also change how they implement their goals. One example is CVWO's President, Brian Taber (pictured below), who is doing hawkwatch and fund raising from his backyard pasture as part of the Hawk Migration Association of North America.



I salute Brian for doing his part in keeping our community safe by staying at home. Visit the CVWO website at: www.vawildliferesearch.org. You can see a great video about hawk identification there and also on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com). And don't miss the article in this newsletter by Nancy Barnhart (Page 7) which contains some great data about the number of hawks being counted this season.

Encouraging Messages

With this month's message I hope to provide you some encouragement. Whether you find your strengths through art, music, religion, or faith in a higher power, there are those who have written enduring messages. I will share some of these with you throughout this Corner.

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Participate in WBC's *Global Big Day* Event – May 9th (Continued from Page 1)

2. Create a checklist(s) using your personal eBird account.
3. Share your checklist(s) with the bird club's eBird account. Our username is "W Bird Club."

Instructions for creating an eBird account and sharing checklists will be forthcoming by e-mail for those who don't have accounts or previous experience sharing checklists. If you'd rather not create an eBird account, then you can send your data to [Jim Corliss](#), and Jim will create a checklist for you using the bird club's account.

Jim will compile all of the checklists submitted May 9th and publish those results. We're hoping we can collectively find at least 100 species, and also contribute at least 100 checklists to help eBird meet its 100,000 goal! We will award a "special prize" to the individual or family who submits the most eBird checklists. Be sure also to upload photos of any interesting sightings when you submit your checklists so we can share those with other bird club members.

More information about eBird's *Global Big Day* can be found at the following web site:

<https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-9-may-2020>

We miss seeing everyone at our meetings, bird walks, and field trips, and hope that this will be a good opportunity to "get together" for a worthwhile cause. 🐦

THE WBC'S RECORDS COMMITTEE

By Bill Williams

From its earliest beginnings in 1977 the Williamsburg Bird Club (WBC) made a commitment to maintain a long-term bird information database specific to Virginia's Colonial Historic Triangle (CHT): Williamsburg, James City County, York County, and Hog Island, Surry County. That body of work, some details of which date to colonial times, is a dynamic catalog for every bird species that has been verified within the CHT jurisdictions. The taxonomic organization of the data adheres to the most recent American Ornithological Society sequencing, which is updated annually to reflect nomenclature and species designation changes derived through peer-reviewed studies.

The current WBC record system is a continuously updated chronology. Every entry posted to the data set is annotated to include: species name, gender of the bird(s) when that can be accurately determined, number of individuals detected, location of the detection, and who submitted and/or was present when the detection was made. Additional annotations are made for species new to the CHT, new local early or late dates for our migrant species, new single-site/single-day peak count, and breeding activity, if any, incorporating the dates of that activity. For those reports that were accompanied by photographs or sound recordings, those are so noted, often followed by a request for permission to archive these for WBC publications. Report totals for both the Christmas and Spring bird counts are jointly maintained by the count compiler and the WBC Records Chair.

The WBC's local data are synthesized from a broad spectrum of resources. Personal networking has been and should continue to be one of the most significant and efficient of these. The club has benefitted immensely from notes and notebooks assembled by members who recorded their field experiences. Additional noteworthy records are gleaned from past and present literature and periodicals. In recent years, the volume of data posted to social media data entry portals such as eBird, listservs, and nature photography groups has vastly increased the number of reports at the local level and beyond. Those are screened on an almost daily basis in search of data points that have significance to the CHT. Although most of that data has been verified or confirmed at the portal level, there are circumstances that warrant requests for additional supportive details to fully ensure the account's accuracy.

The WBC has published two compendia of its records. The first, *Birds of the Williamsburg, Virginia Area: An Annotated Checklist*, edited by Bill Sheehan, was printed in 1998. The second, *The Birds of Virginia's Colonial Historic Triangle: An Annotated Checklist*, went public in 2012. An [updated summary](#) of the status of every species documented in the CHT is periodically posted on the WBC website. Below are two examples among several entered during the first four months of 2020 that illustrate a typical CHT data entry point:

Red-eyed Vireo-1-Ford's Colony-9 Apr 2020-George Martin-new local early date.

Ovenbird-16-Warhill Sports Complex-7 Apr 2020-Lee Schuster-new local peak count. 🐦

President's Corner (Continued from Page 2)

My first message of encouragement is "May You Hear the Whisper of Wings," author unknown:

But where can I find peace? Try looking about you for some inner peace. I grabbed my binoculars and headed for the trees. I only had to look to the birds to begin my healing. Look at the brilliant migrating birds, birds that are continuing their exhausting and long journey in spite of the violent events. Look at the majestic mountains, the green rolling hills, the crashing waves of the ocean. Watch the bickering hummingbirds around your backyard feeders. Get out into your garden, do battle with the weeds, marvel at the Monarch butterflies making their way to a place they have never seen, enjoy the early autumn flowers. Life is continuing, in spite of tragedy. Look to the wonders of nature to regain some sense of balance and peace.

May you be blessed and may you always hear the whisper of wings.

Also, I want to share this message:

If we surrendered
to earth's intelligence
we could rise up rooted,
like trees.

~ Rainer Maria Rilke

Board Update

Hats off to Bill Williams, who has been the Records Chairperson for 21 years. We salute you, Bill! In case you are unaware of what that role involves, I asked Bill to write a summary of the responsibilities of the position (See Page 3). Bill is handing off the position to Nancy Barnhart. Thanks go to Nancy for volunteering to accept this responsibility!

Meet Your Board

Several months ago I started using a portion of my Corner to introduce you to a member of the Board. This month I would like to have you meet Mary Ellen Hodges, Vice-President, Editor (*The Flyer*), in her own words:

I laughed out loud recently when Cheryl, in reference to my volunteering last December to serve as WBC newsletter editor, called me "a complete wild card." I knew what she meant: I've been a member of the WBC for only a few years, even though my interest in birds dates from my childhood. I was raised, beginning in the mid-1950s, in a new neighborhood soon annexed by the City of Charlottesville. There were still plenty of undeveloped

fields and woodlands nearby through which my two sisters and I would ramble largely unsupervised. I have a strong early memory in this semi-rural setting of a mother quail walking past a low window on our house, followed by her numerous offspring, as my entire family excitedly watched from inside.

I fished a lot with my father as a child, and helped in his garden, learning from him how peaceful and refreshing being out in nature can be. My oldest sister was a big influence on my particular interest in birds. I appreciate WBC for sponsoring scholarships to Nature Camp, near Vesuvias, because my sister, now 70, attended when she was young. Upon returning home she taught me to identify all of the birds in our yard. (My sister was hardcore: she practiced taxidermy on the dead birds she would find!) Another major influence during my youth were two teachers in my public high school who broadened my interests in environmental science when they accepted me into their new "Ecology" class in 1971. Their innovative curriculum used the Everglades as a case study to illustrate many conservation concepts, and the highlight of the class was a camping trip to Florida during the height of the winter birding season.

When I entered college, at William and Mary, I discovered an interest in Anthropology. I retired last year after 42 years of residence in Williamsburg and with 33 years of state service as an archaeologist with Virginia's Historic Resources and Transportation agencies. Many archaeologists enjoy their wildlife encounters in the field as much as their archaeological discoveries. I have a great memory from the mid-1980s of watching two Bald Eagles lock talons in free fall over a property in Caroline County. But one of the best bird watching sites I worked on was closer to home: a Native American village excavated in the early 1990s in advance of construction of the 18th hole at the Governor's Land at Two Rivers. My crew worked through the winter, and when the winds off the Chickahominy were particularly brutal we ate lunch in our cars, watching as eagles tore fish apart in the tall pines along the shore, a kestrel hovered above the abandoned farm field, and bluebirds clutched the radio antennas on our vehicles.



In recent years, my interest in birding has become more deliberate. The time following my father's death in 2002 proved rather grim as my mother declined from Alzheimer's disease and I spent many weekends in Charlottesville looking after her or her affairs, maintaining my parent's house, and then liquidating its holdings. After my mother's death in 2013, I found myself spending more and more time outdoors, seeking solace, and beauty, and the relief of engaging a different part of my brain than the one that was required 9-5, five days a week at a desk job. My late husband,
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President's Corner (Continued from Page 4)

Charley, understanding what I was going through surprised me that year with an affordable digital camera equipped with a 50X zoom lens, recommended by the owners of the former Massey's Camera Shop in response to Charley's request for "the best for birding."



It was a revelation to me as I continued to venture out—now with camera in hand and the explicit intent of bird watching—how unobservant of my surroundings I previously had been, and how unappreciative. I began to see many species new to me within only a mile or so of my house that I'd never

seen in many years of backyard birding. As my awareness increased, I also began to note species in my own yard that I'd seen only rarely or never before at that location—most notably the Baltimore Oriole. On Election Day 2016, I spotted a female at our suet feeder, and within an hour Charley had rigged a new tray feeder for her filled with chopped apple, the only fruit in our house at the time. That female ended up staying with us the remainder of the winter, and before she left us in April she had been joined by four other orioles. Our astounding experience with the orioles that first winter has repeated itself for an additional three consecutive years, with 5-9 orioles overwintering each year. I've taken enough photos of the orioles to fill several hard drives, but I'll share here only two of my favorites from this year, taken before April 20, the day I saw what likely was the last oriole to eat from my jelly feeder this spring before migrating north.

Want Conservation? Get People Involved in Nature

Being in nature—pausing in it, sitting with it, discovering its wonders—brings a sense of calm and renewal.

"The field is starting to build momentum right now," says University of Washington environmental psychologist Gregory Bratman, who led a recent review of findings across social and health sciences. "Evidence is there to support the conclusion that contact with nature benefits our mood, our psychological well-being, our mental health, and our cognitive functioning," he says.

Recent surveys indicate that 25 percent of U.S. residents spend two or fewer hours a week outdoors. Helen Moncrieff, of the U.K.'s Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, says: "You can't have conservation without people involved."

Mary Carol Hunter is an associate professor at the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability and lead researcher in a study that sought to establish the most effective dose of an urban nature experience for relieving stress. Hunter says: "We know that spending time in nature reduces stress, but until now it was unclear how much is enough, how often to do it, or even what kind of nature experience will benefit us. Our study shows that for the greatest payoff, in terms of efficiently lowering levels of the stress hormone cortisol, you should spend 20 to 30 minutes sitting or walking in a place that provides you with a sense of nature."

Ways to Help Birds and Wildlife

Ban Balloons: "They are a serious threat to wildlife simply because they are colorful and bright, so wildlife might mistake them for food, and the strings can wrap around their bodies and make it difficult for them to swim or breathe," Emma Tonge, communications and outreach specialist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, [told USA Today](#).

Several states have already cracked down on large balloon releases. California, Connecticut, Florida, Tennessee, and Virginia have banned them, while other states have similar bills under consideration. In Florida, all balloons are banned from Palm Beach County beaches and public parks.

Get a Reusable Water Bottle and Take it with You:

You see it everywhere: in grocery stores, coffee shops, gas stations, and airports. Bottled water—packaged in flimsy, single-use plastic—has become more popular than soda in the US. In 2017, the average American consumed more than 42 gallons of bottled water.

Because less than 10% of plastic waste gets recycled in the US, most of those water bottles wind up in dumps, where they won't break down for hundreds of years. Globally, plastic trash clogs not only landfills but also rivers and oceans, harming or killing countless animals that ingest it.

One of the simplest ways to reduce your own plastic waste is to get a reusable water bottle. Keep it in a visible location and take it with you whenever you leave your home. Tap water costs a fraction of what the bottled form costs, so you'll be doing your wallet a favor as well.

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President's Corner (Continued from Page 5)

No Butts About It: Some 5.5 trillion cigarettes are produced each year around the world, and the majority of those have filters made of cellulose acetate. Cellulose acetate can take a decade or longer to break down under ultraviolet light, which in turn disperses the toxic plastic into smaller bits.

The filters ostensibly reduce the amount of tar a smoker inhales when taking a drag. But filters force smokers to inhale more deeply to get the same sensation from the tar and nicotine. The result is the illusion of a healthier version of a bad-for-you product.

Filters also further increase the presence of plastics in our environment. For the last 32 years, cigarette butts have been the most commonly found item during the Ocean Conservancy's annual international coastal cleanup project; they accounted for 2.4 million of the items found on global beaches.

Birds that ingest single-use plastic filters can experience vomiting, seizures, and often death.

A wildlife photographer has captured a picture of a Black Skimmer bird feeding its chick a cigarette filter on a beach in Florida (see photo below). In a Facebook post, the photographer, Karen Mason, said she had happened upon the pair on St. Pete beach outside Tampa last month. Mason is a volunteer for the National Audubon Society and had her camera on hand while she was bird stewarding—or making sure beachgoers weren't disturbing wildlife.



Closing Message

I will end with these words of wisdom from Chief Seattle, Chief of the Suquamish Indians, from an 1855 letter to President Franklin Pierce:

The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself. If all the animals were gone, man would die of a great loneliness of spirit. For whatever happens to the animals, soon happens to man. All things are connected.

And my wish for you is STAY WELL MY FRIENDS! 🐦

DGIF'S PLAN TO ADDRESS DISPLACEMENT OF HRBT SEABIRD COLONY

Construction of the original Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT), connecting the cities of Hampton and Norfolk, was completed in 1957. The structure was noteworthy in the history of transportation as being the first underwater crossing to run between two man-made islands. As suitable nesting habitat for colonial seabirds declined in the Chesapeake Bay, the South Island of the HRBT became an attractant to these species. First colonized by the late 1980s, the South Island ultimately became host to Virginia's largest colony of nesting waterbirds, including the Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, and the state-threatened Gull-billed Tern. The Virginia Department of Transportation is currently in the early stages of expanding the HRBT, and construction of this project is displacing the bird colony. Information about the efforts the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) is taking to create new habitat for the displaced colony can be found on the agency's [website](#). As summarized by DGIF: "In the short-term, the DGIF is converting the parade ground on Rip Raps Island [Fort Wool] (adjacent to South Island) from grass to a sand/gravel substrate. Using barges covered with a sand/gravel mix, it is also creating an artificial island to be anchored in the embayment between South Island and Rip Raps Island... The DGIF is also working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to explore the feasibility of using spoils from dredging operations to create a brand new, permanent, artificial island near the current nesting area. Lastly, the DGIF is developing [regulatory language](#) that will help protect all migratory birds, as a backstop to the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act." 🐦

HAWKWATCH 2020 UPDATE

By Nancy Barnhart



Immature Bald Eagle. Photo by Nancy Barnhart.

Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO) is currently conducting its 24th year of spring migration hawk counting at the College Creek Hawkwatch site. This is located on the Colonial Parkway, not far from College Creek beach on the James River. Brian Taber and Bill Williams have been counting hawks at this site from the beginning, (with help from the late Tom Armour), joined by Nancy Barnhart in the last few years, and occasional volunteers.

College Creek is one of just three Mid-Atlantic coastal hawkwatch sites conducting spring counts. The next closest to Williamsburg is the count at Fort Smallwood, near Baltimore.

This year we started on the first of March and will continue to count through May. We experienced a temporary interruption when the National Park Service closed the Colonial Parkway to vehicular traffic between Rt. 199 and Jamestown. We are now back up and running with Nancy accessing the site by bicycle. The hours of 9:30-12:30 have proven to be the most productive; but if we see birds gathering over Hog Island, we've been known to stay until 2:30.

March 2020 set a new one-month record with 1618 raptors counted in migration. (An increase in the number of observation hours accounts for some but certainly not all of the record.) The huge number of Turkey Vultures we observed drove that record with 1354 moving north. Because there are no stations south of us it's hard to know where these birds have spent the winter, but it's most likely in the southeast U.S. according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It's great to see so many vultures in spring migration but also of serious concern to see a drop in Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and continued low numbers in Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, and Sharp-shinned Hawk. We submit our observations to the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA), and according to HMANA there are "markedly negative trends for the coastal sites" for

these species. HMANA does a great job of reporting and analyzing data at the end of the season, and we look forward to reading their reports.

In addition to counting raptors we are often treated to quick looks at fun birds. This year we saw 22 Anhingas fly over, had numerous days of watching the American White Pelicans both in the river and soaring over Hog Island, got early looks at terns, swallows crossing the James, and, due to the current lack of traffic, Wild Turkeys feeling brave on the Parkway.



Wild Turkey. Photo by Nancy Barnhart.

Always fun is watching the array of young Bald Eagles we see heading north. Their numbers are up 75% over March a year ago. With so many local eagles and Osprey we are careful to count only immature birds that are clearly flying north.

Our fingers are crossed for a kite or two before the season ends. We'll give you another update in the next several months. 🐦



Red-headed Woodpecker, Powhatan Creek Trail. Photo by Judy Jones.

WBC MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome is extended to new members Kate and Tim Wilhide, Shan and Anne Gill, and Catherine Dix Allen. Current members, if you have not already renewed for 2020 you can find a membership form on Page 10 of this newsletter. 🐦

REPORTED BIRD SIGHTINGS

We want to know what you're seeing in your yard and travels. Please share with Club members by sending your sightings and photos to Mary Ellen Hodges at me.hodges@cox.net.



Jan Lockwood provided the photo to the left, taken February 29, of a pair of **Osprey** on the nesting platform at the Queens Lake Marina: "This nest, #676, was the first Osprey Watch nest

reported to be occupied in 2020 in our area. It has been monitored since 2012, shortly after the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists joined Osprey Watch. However, we cannot be certain that it is the same pair since they are not banded. According to Cathy Flanagan, 15 Osprey chicks have fledged from this nest."

Gary and Ann Carpenter reported that on March 9 they spotted an **American Black Duck**, a **Red-tailed Hawk**, 4 to 6 **Eastern Meadowlarks**, and a pair of **American Kestrel** in Colonial Heritage.



Keith Kennedy visited five different **Osprey** nesting sites on the Chickahominy River on March 31 (photo on left): "The most wonderful thing was to closely observe

how they build nests...they fly into the tops of deciduous trees, where the branches are tapering off in size, and hover intentionally over a branch that cannot possibly support their weight. Then, with wings flapping, they lower themselves onto a branch, and when the branch breaks they already have it in their talons."

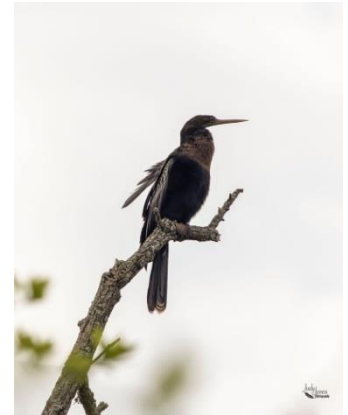


Inge Curtis reported that a pair of **Yellow-throated Warblers** (photo above left) arrived at her home April 2. Some other migratory species that Inge has seen on her property this spring are **Northern Parula** and **Summer Tanager** (photo above right).



On April 14, **Keith Kennedy** had a **Black and White Warbler** (above left) on his property. He also saw a **Royal Tern** (above right) that day at Chickahominy Riverfront Park.

Judy Jones reported an **Anhinga** (photo right) on the Greensprings Trail the week of April 21—a really unusual sight for this location—and provided photos (below) of a **Prothonotary Warbler** (left) and **Eastern Phoebe** (right) on Powhatan Creek.



Jeanette Navia had a **Rose-Breasted Grosbeak** (photo right) visit her backyard feeder on April 24 and 25.



On April 29 **Virginia Wycoff** encountered a **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** in Ford's Colony, much further north of its usual range (photo left, by Cheryl Jacobson). 🦆

NEED A BREAK FROM "THE NEWS?" LISTEN TO A BIRDING PODCAST

By Paula Perdoni

A podcast is a series of audio episodes focused on a particular topic or theme. Podcasts can be accessed on individual websites or by downloading apps (software applications) to your Android or iOS devices. Podcast apps are free and available at the [Google Play](#) store (Android) or the [Apple App Store](#) (iOS). Once you have chosen an app and downloaded it you can search for a podcast by name or by topic. Try listening to an episode, and if you like what you hear you can subscribe to that podcast and it will save to your library. Each time you go back into the app the new episodes will appear. Many of the podcasts have hundreds of old episodes. Within each podcast, there is a search engine that allows listeners to look for a particular topic they may have missed in the past. No matter if you are an experienced birder or a beginner, whether you have five minutes or all afternoon, there are plenty of podcasts to choose from. Here are a few:

American Birding Podcast: Host Nate Swick (North Carolina) along with staff and friends of the American Birding Association (ABA) talk about birds, birding, travel, and conservation in North America and beyond. Listen every other Thursday for news and happenings, recent rarities, guests from around the birding world, and features of interest to every birder. Archives of podcasts dating back to 2016 are available on the ABA website. In addition, the ABA has a webpage, [ABA Live!](#), with endless videos containing virtual tours, book reviews, and talks. <https://www.aba.org/podcast/>

Bird Calls Radio: A radio show hosted by Marti Dickinson. This podcast places a heavy emphasis on bird conservation and getting children out and enjoying the outdoors. [birdcallsradio.com](#) / Facebook - BirdCallsRadio

Birdchick Podcast: Sharon Stiteler (Minnesota) is joined by her husband, Non-Birding Bill. Stiteler, a writer, speaker, newspaper columnist, and park ranger, shares her birding experiences. [birdchick.com](#) / Facebook – Birdchick

Bird Note: A daily two-minute informative podcast about birds with delightful audio recordings allows the

listener to either learn a new call or enjoy a familiar one. www.birdnote.org / Facebook – BirdNote

Bird Watch with Roger Taylor: A broadcast each Saturday morning from WKZO in Michigan. Roger reports what is happening in the birding world. <https://wkzo.com/podcasts/bird-watch-with-roger-taylor/>

The Field Guides: Each month Bill and Steve (western New York) take you along the trail in search of wildlife. Very thoroughly researched. Check out some great episodes about birds. thefieldguidespodcast.com / Facebook - The Field Guides

Laura Erickson's for the Birds: The longest continuously-running radio program about birds. In addition to podcast host, Erickson is a teacher, biologist, wildlife rehabilitator, editor, columnist, and author. On her show she shares stories of the Midwest and birds from around the country. lauraerickson.com

Talkin' Birds: Ray Brown's radio show is broadcast from WATD in Marshfield, MA. You'll find entertaining conversations about wild birds with expert guests regardless of whether you are an experienced or new birder! talkinbirds.com / Facebook - Talkin' Birds Radio Show

This Birding Life: Archived shows that were hosted by Bill Thompson, III, editor of Bird Watcher's Digest, before he passed away in 2019. The series covered topical news and conversations with famous birders and scientists. Worth a search for a particular topic or location of interest. [This Birding Life](#)

If you know of an additional podcast that would be of interest to the rest of us, please pass that information along. 🐦



Tree Swallows. Photo by Inge Curtis.



2020 Williamsburg Bird Club Membership Form

Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Email	Phone	

_____ Please send me the full color version of the newsletter by email at my email address above.

_____ Please mail the black-and-white hard copy version of the newsletter to my home address above.

Membership _____ New _____ Renewing

_____ Individual \$20

_____ Family \$25

_____ Patron \$35

_____ Student \$5

I wish to make a contribution to:

\$_____ the Ruth Beck & Bill Sheehan Ornithological Research Grants Fund for W&M Students

\$_____ the Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarship Fund

\$_____ the Child Development Resources Seed/Feeder Fund

Make your check payable to the Williamsburg Bird Club and mail to:

Williamsburg Bird Club
P.O. Box 1085
Williamsburg, VA 23187

Your membership dues and additional contributions are important to the mission of the Williamsburg Bird Club. Thank you!

If you have questions about your membership, contact Membership Chair Jeanette Navia,
jnavia@gmail.com

The Williamsburg Bird Club is exempt from federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3) and is a non-profit organization eligible to receive tax deductible donations.



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ANNUAL DONATIONS FROM OUR LOCALLY-OWNED BIRD STORES

The Williamsburg Bird Club wishes to express our gratitude to our locally-owned Bird Stores, Wild Birds Unlimited and Backyard Birder Seed & Supply, for their generous donations each year to the Club. Their contributions help sustain WBC's annual commitment to provide funds for the Ornithology Research Grants given annually to graduate students at the College of William and Mary as well as support other Club projects and activities.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO 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 by donating to the club an amount equal to 5% of the pre-tax amount spent in the store by WBC members each year. Please inform them you are a WBC member during checkout. <https://williamsburg.wbu.com/>