



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

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October/November 2020



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Cheryl J. Jacobson

I begin with this quote from William Cullen Bryant's poem "Thanatopsis":

*. . . Of the last bitter hour come like a blight
Over thy spirit, . . .
Go forth, under the open sky, and list
To Nature's teachings . . .*

Does this not fit for this time of pandemic (and also Columbine and other tragedies)? Perhaps this is why I relate so deeply to Katie Fallon, her book *Cerulean Blues*, and her presentation at our October WBC meeting. Katie was teaching English at Virginia Tech when students were massacred, and her memories of the day and its traumatic aftermath are deeply moving. Her pursuit of the Cerulean Warbler provided at first a distraction and then a way to move forward in the wake of the tragedy.

Katie provided us a list of things we can do. Check out Cathy Millar's report in this newsletter (Page 7) and the list below. Buying shade-grown coffee is one easy thing we all can do to benefit all of our migratory birds, not just the Cerulean Warbler.

1. Purchase shade-grown coffee.
2. Contribute to organizations that support Cerulean Warbler conservation.
3. Support the efforts of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative.
4. Speak out against mountaintop removal coal mining.
5. Conserve energy.
6. Learn the names of things.
7. Let nature help you heal.
8. Get out there.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 18, via Zoom at 7 PM:

Relocation of the HRBT Seabird Colony, with presenter Sarah Karpanty

January 20, via Zoom at 7 PM:

"Web-footed Waterbirds," with presenter Bob Schamerhorn

Want something to look forward to? We have some terrific programs coming up. In November, WBC will host Professor Sarah Karpanty from Virginia Tech's Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. She will speak about the multi-agency effort to create a new breeding ground for thousands of seabirds displaced by construction on the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel. The birds successfully relocated to historic Fort Wool after their regular nesting area was paved for construction equipment. The colony—the largest seabird colony in Virginia—includes breeding Common, Royal, and Sandwich terns as well the state threatened Gull-billed Tern and Black Skimmers. Several species of gulls also were affected. Dr. Karpanty will update us about how the habitat creation project is working out and what lies ahead for these precarious shorebirds.

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Royal Terns on Fort Wool with barges and HRBT in background, June 2020. Photo courtesy of Sarah Karpanty.

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Upcoming Programs, Continued from Page 1

Here are some links to background reading to get you ready for the November program:

- <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/24/752147830/the-birds-nesting-impedes-construction-in-virginia>
- <https://www.pilotonline.com/life/wildlife-nature/vp-nw-hrvt-birds-success-20200725-up2gokoh4veyhf2gqvndpnot7y-story.html>



Hooded Merganser. Photo by Bob Schamerhorn.

For January, plan to join us for Bob Schamerhorn's program on web-footed waterbirds. You may have enjoyed Bob's presentations in the past, and this one promises to be especially interesting with lots of fabulous photos and some practical bird i.d. tips. Note that Bob Schamerhorn's presentation often has been scheduled before the holidays, allowing club members to purchase his note cards and calendars for gifts. This year these and other items can be purchased online (with free shipping now until December 24th) at <http://www.iphotobirds.com/store.html>. 

President's Corner, Continued from Page 1



Look for the "Bird Friendly" label (left) to know you are purchasing shade-grown coffee. Bird Friendly certification was developed by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and is the only 100% organic and shade-grown coffee certification available. Bird Friendly coffee

can be found at Chesapeake Bay Roasting Company (<https://www.cbrccoffee.com/product-type/bird-friendly>) and at some Fresh Market stores. Katie buys hers online from Birds & Beans (<https://birdsandbeanscoffee.com/>).

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Birds and Indigenous Cultures

We all are becoming more and more aware that we must work globally to save our birds if we are to enjoy birding in our future. Several groups are working to increase the funding for conservation efforts led by Indigenous Peoples and the creation of more Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) and their management by Indigenous Guardians. Such projects have already led to millions of protected acres in Canada, and millions more could benefit from Indigenous stewardship.

Audubon has a vision for collaboration and partnership with efforts led by Indigenous Peoples. The society has worked with Indigenous groups to help fulfill the shared goal of protecting the Boreal forest, one of the largest intact forests left on Earth and the nesting grounds and migratory stopover for nearly half of the common bird species found in North America.

Indigenous Cultures and Purple Martins

In September we had a great program about Purple Martins. Be sure to read Cathy Millar's summary of the presentation (Page 5) as she put significant effort into assuring that the information is available for those who missed the meeting or for those who want to review. As I was writing about IPCAs I remembered an online article I had read, and I decided to share it as it relates to Purple Martins and the impact to them by Indigenous Peoples and others. The following history is an excerpt from a [page on the Birdwatching Dot Com website](#).

"Purple martins used to nest in trees. But they've been using houses provided by people for hundreds or even thousands of years. Native Americans began a tradition that we're still enjoying.

Purple martins love people. In fact, they can't live without us. Or at least they can't nest without us. They raise their young only in special birdhouses that people put up for them.

Long ago, purple martins nested in hollow trees, with no help from people. And then they completely changed their habits. Ornithologists guess that somewhere, sometime, a few centuries ago or more, a Native American hung up a hollow gourd at the top of a pole, and a pair of purple martins raised a family

in it. Maybe the birds' happy-sounding, gurgling songs appealed to the person. Maybe she liked how the birds caught and ate the flies that buzzed around the drying meat. And maybe they loved the birds' exhilarating speed and agility in the air. So the next spring she made sure a gourd was hanging in the same place, or maybe she put up two or three.



© PMCA

Soon a small colony of birds was gliding around the village, gobbling flies and entertaining everyone with their music. Other villagers also began hanging gourds near their homes to attract the beautiful birds. They found the purple martins fun to watch, and they appreciated the insect control.

From the purple martins' point of view, the village commotion gave them some protection from owls and snakes, which will eat baby purple martins if they get the chance.

Other tribes of Native American[s] copied the practice. Early reports say that the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes mounted gourds on the branches of bare saplings to attract purple martins.

When the first European settlers arrived and learned about the friendly birds, they built birdhouses for them also, and North Americans have been hosting purple martins ever since. Nationwide a million hobbyists now maintain martin houses, keeping alive an ancient tradition of cooperation between bird and man. . . .

It's remarkable how completely the birds have accepted the hospitality of human landlords. Other birds, such as wrens and bluebirds, also use birdhouses, but they continue to nest in the traditional ways as well. (*Continued on Page 4*)

President's Corner, Continued from Page 3

Purple martins in [the] eastern US, however, have undergone a total tradition shift. They nest only in human-provided housing, and they insist on being within about 30 to 100 feet of human habitation. They trustingly raise their young in our backyards and towns, sometimes right in the middle of our business districts."

Purple Martin Project

However you assess this situation, it is clear that Purple Martins now depend on our efforts to provide appropriate housing. Purple Martin populations have been declining because of a lack of properly managed nesting structures. The species dramatically declined in population around the mid-20th century

due to habitat loss and competition for nest sites with other birds such as European Starlings and House Sparrows. Joe Siegrist, president and CEO of the Purple Martin Conservation Association has said, "It became almost a duty at that point. People putting out these nest boxes is the only thing keeping the species from being eliminated from 99 percent of the range east of the Rocky Mountains" (<https://www.thetimesherald.com/story/news/2019/12/07/purple-martins-get-harder-find-michigan/4011653002/>).

Best Wishes

My wish for you is wellness and that you find some joy in the upcoming Holidays. For the New Year, my wish is that you find some enjoyment in your Williamsburg Bird Club. 🐦

2020 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT — DECEMBER 20TH

By Jim Corliss

Many people have been asking if WBC is still holding a Christmas Bird Count (CBC) this year. The answer is **YES!** We're excited that we will be sponsoring a Williamsburg CBC this year on **Sunday December 20th**. However, we will be making some changes to conduct the count as safely as possible and within the guidelines that the National Audubon Society has established for this year's CBC. The specific requirements being implemented by Audubon, and supported by our bird club, are as follows:

1. Cancel all in-person compilation gatherings.
2. Social distancing and/or masking are required at all times in the field.
3. Carpooling may only occur within existing familiar or social "pod" groups.
4. Activities must comply with all current state and municipal COVID-19 guidelines.

It is important to note that Audubon and WBC put everyone's safety above and beyond collecting data for the CBC. Specifically, Audubon's CBC guidance states, "The safety of our compilers and community scientists will always be our top priority. . . . There will be little to no impact on the scientific value of the Christmas Bird Count by missing or altering one count season. So again, we urge you to prioritize your safety and the safety of others when making your decision." Everyone's personal situation is different, and if you don't feel you can participate in the CBC safely this year, then we ask that you don't

put yourself at risk. Hopefully by this time next year we'll all be conducting the CBC as we have for so many years in the past.

Even with these new protocols in place, we can still conduct a meaningful count and collect important bird population data. Plus there are many interesting questions to answer: Will this year's early flocks of Pine Siskins stay and shatter our CBC record of 47 set over 40 years ago? Will we find a Yellow-throated Warbler again in Kingsmill for the third straight year? And, will Mary Ellen Hodges again host Baltimore Orioles in her yard during the CBC? (*Continued on Page 5*)



Pine Siskin flock. Photo by Carol O'Neil.

Christmas Bird Count, Continued from Page 4

The leaders of the individual sectors in our count circle will work with their field teams to conduct a safe bird count. Our large contingent of feeder watchers—78 for last year's CBC—should remain relatively unaffected by the COVID-19 guidelines. To comply with the Audubon guideline to cancel our in-person compilation meeting, we will compile our count data using eBird much like we did for the Global Big Day back in May of this year. It would be greatly appreciated if everyone submitting data this year would create an eBird account and enter their data into the eBird web site instead of sending their data to me using email. When you submit your data to eBird the

geographic location is recorded and your data are automatically compiled with the other data for our count circle. The compilation process becomes much faster and is less prone to me making errors trying to keep all of the data straight. Additional information about creating an eBird account and adding your data to the count will be sent to all bird club members in November.

In the meantime, please set aside a portion of December 20th to participate in the CBC this year. We're looking forward to continuing our 44-year history of contributing to this important citizen science project! 🐦

PURPLE MARTINS, AMERICA'S MOST WANTED BIRD

By Cathy Millar

On the evening of September 16, Mike Bishop of Fairfax County delivered an information-packed program to the WBC on Purple Martins. Mike has a background of working with Purple Martins and other cavity nesting bird programs for 38 years. He became a Master Naturalist in 2013 and founded the Northern Virginia Purple Martin Initiative in 2015. He and trained volunteers obtain permission to erect and monitor donated housing for cavity nesters on public property and advise and mentor new cavity nester landlords on private property. They also host seminars for environmental groups and clubs. To date they have installed 21 Purple Martin colonies where over 1,000 martins fledged this year, 2 Wood Duck trails, 4 bluebird trails, a Prothonotary Warbler trail, and a kestrel project with 8 out of 11 houses hosting breeding pairs. Mike shared his passion for Purple Martins in his presentation *The Purple Martin, America's Most Wanted Bird*.

Purple Martins are the largest swallow in North America and they spend the winter in the Amazon Basin, particularly in Brazil and Bolivia. Interestingly, thousands roost on the wires of Brazilian oil refineries, perhaps because there are fewer predators. In summer, martins breed from Florida all the way up to and including most of southern Canada. There are two distinct subspecies. Our eastern species occupies a range east of the Rocky Mountains, and they live in colonies and nest solely in man-made birdhouses. The species west of the Rockies is not colonial and still uses natural cavities for nesting. Researchers at the Purple Martin Conservation Association have been attaching GPS tags and geolocators

to martins before they migrate to gather more data about exact routes and duration of the journey.

Historically, the birds probably were called "martins" by colonists because of their resemblance to European House Martins. Early American ornithologists reported seeing Native American gourd houses built for Purple Martins. Indigenous Peoples may have hung the martin houses to protect animal hides that were being stretched and tanned from being damaged by crows, ravens, and raptors picking at residue meat on the hides. Purple Martins are very territorial and likely would have chased the other birds away. In 1831, John James Audubon wrote that almost every country tavern had a martin box on the upper part of its sign-board and that the handsomer the box, the better the inn tended to be. During the 1920's-40's, oil and railroad tycoons competed with each other spending as much as \$3,000 to build impressive martin houses. Then, with the invention of the television, a Mr. J. L. Wade opened an aluminum antenna manufacturing company in Griggsville, IL. Wade was also a birder and upon realizing that Griggsville was in a martin migratory corridor, he converted his factory to making aluminum martin houses. His slogan was "*AMERICA'S MOST WANTED BIRD, can eat 2,000 mosquitoes a day*". Wade wrote a couple of books about Purple Martins and made Griggsville the Purple Martin capital of the nation. It has since been proven that Purple Martins do not provide any protection from mosquitoes because the insect lives too close to the ground for martins to hunt them. Data shows an incidental take of mosquitoes being less than 3% of the martin diet. (Continued on Page 6)

Purple Martins, continued from Page 5

Mike reported that male martins are sexually mature after their first winter, but because it takes three years for the male to develop the solid purple plumage, it is often difficult to differentiate young males from females. He described scouts as being experienced martins of three or more years of age who arrive first, often in March, to select the best housing. Their push to arrive early sometimes costs them their lives if there is an unexpected cold spell and not enough insects to eat over a three- or four-day period. The younger birds arrive in a second wave May through June and are often the ones who set up house in a new colony and start site fidelity. Purple Martins are distinct from other swallows in that they hunt large flying insects (beetles, flies, dragonflies, grasshoppers, wasps, and bees) swept up by thermals at altitudes higher than 150 feet and sometimes 500 feet or more off the ground. They depend completely on insects caught on the wing and land on the ground only to collect nesting material or small bits of gravel to help them digest exoskeletons. Both sexes build the nest, starting with a base of dry pine needles, twigs, and oak leaves and then, just before egg laying, they line the nest with green leaves. The average number of eggs per nest is 4-6.

Mike described the aluminum houses made popular by Mr. Wade with 6x6 inch compartments as too small and poorly ventilated for a nesting pair unless a partition is removed to convert two rooms into one. Mike championed bigger plastic gourds with clean-out ports and an entrance hole resistant to European

Starlings. Any bird house with a round hole can be retrofitted with a starling-resistant entrance. There is no way to keep House Sparrows out other than constantly removing the nest. After five or six removals, the sparrows usually give up. As a non-native species, these sparrows are not protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and their nests and the birds can be removed legally. Mike stressed the importance of using poles with a pulley system for lowering and raising the house to clean it at the end of the year and to monitor the nest for problems. He described saving fledgling birds from mite infestation by changing the bedding and adding Sevin dust or diatomaceous earth. He uses stove pipe snake guards, but the ultimate protection from big rat snakes is tying wadded garden netting around the pole. Netting should be monitored so snakes caught in it can be cut free and relocated. Selecting the right habitat and proper location of martin lodging is critical. It needs to be in an open area and a minimum of 40 feet away from trees and buildings. Mike recommended the *Purple Martin Dawn Song CD* for attracting martins to a new site. Some colonies take a few years to get started. He also recommended Eagle Scouts as an excellent resource for helping with any bird projects and pointed out the potential of colleges, public schools, and federal and state parks for providing space for a colony and helping fund the equipment. He concluded the program by advising WBC members to join the Purple Martin Conservation Association and add to its databases. He personally has found these birds to be so engaging that they feel like pets by the end of the season. 🐦

THOUGHTS FROM A NEIGHBORHOOD BIRDER

By Carol Annis

A couple of years ago I began visiting a close-to-home, overgrown, brambly, partially wooded field with a dirt road access near Toano. I had a new camera and had just started photographing some birds, so this spot became my way to photograph and learn about them.

I go to this location every day, weather permitting. In the beginning I couldn't identify the birds—every one was new to me—so I was very excited to find a Carolina Wren or Chipping Sparrow! But as time passed I began to spot even more interesting birds such as Summer Tanagers, Common Yellowthroats, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and Yellow-breasted Chats in the summer and Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets in the winter. (Continued on Page 7)



Magnolia Warbler. Photo by Carol Annis.

Neighborhood Birder, Continued from Page 6

Birding in the same place every day has some advantages. I know where I will have the best light to see birds, and I have gradually learned their favorite trees or bushes, nesting areas, and their habits. I have seen a Common Yellowthroat singing away from the top of his favorite Juniper tree every year. This summer I finally looked down into the surrounding area and found juveniles . . . duh . . . the yellowthroats had a nest in that tree! Each year I have become a little more observant. I know the Indigo Bunting and Yellow-breasted Chats (photo this page) will perch on a high tree and sing during nesting. I know the Red-bellied Woodpeckers (photo Page 8), Northern Flickers, Brown Thrashers, and Cedar Waxwings like the fruit on the wild cherry tree.

It has been interesting to observe the migration in spring and fall. I have noticed some changes year to year. Over time, I've found fewer birds overall—perhaps because there are fewer insects? The species I see are pretty much the same each year with a couple of exceptions. Previously, I had always seen Prairie Warblers, but none this year. This summer I have seen an Orchard Oriole three times—are they new this year, or did I simply not notice them before? There seemed to be more Indigo Buntings this summer. I haven't seen the Field Sparrow all summer, but it has come in with the winter sparrows. This past winter there were noticeably fewer White-throated Sparrows. As a new

birder, I didn't realize how much change there is year to year, so all my observations were casual as I photographed what I saw there. With hindsight, I wish I had recorded dates of seasonal arrivals and departures from the start.

Birding close to home is easy. I can visit morning and evening. I don't try to keep a list or feel compelled to find a rare bird. If I was traveling to go birding it would take too much time from daily life to do it every day. Of course, the down side is I only see “my” birds. Unfortunately, the area I bird is slotted for development, but I will continue to visit, observe, and photograph for as long as possible. 🐦



Yellow-breasted Chat. Photo by Carol Annis.

CERULEAN WARBLER BLUES

By Cathy Millar

It took Cheryl Jacobson six years to secure Katie Fallon, the author of *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird* (2017) and *Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird* (2011) as the WBC's speaker on October 21, but the wait was well worth it. Katie has also taught creative writing at Virginia Tech and West Virginia Wesleyan College, is the founder of the nonprofit Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, and has served as President of the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society. Her presentation was titled *Saving the Cerulean Warbler*.

Katie's interest in Cerulean Warblers was sparked in the early 2000s at an Audubon meeting about the impact of mountaintop removal coal mining. Her interest was reignited in 2006 when she learned that although the warbler is perhaps our fastest declining

migratory Neotropical songbird, with an estimated population of 300 – 400,000, it was denied threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. The vast majority of the warbler's global population breeds in Central Appalachia from Pennsylvania to Tennessee, with all of West Virginia, eastern Kentucky, and Southwest Virginia comprising the heart of the bird's breeding range. They prefer nesting on ridges in large tracts of mature to old-growth hardwood forests with gaps in the canopy and understory vegetation. Small birds weighing the equivalent of only two nickels apiece, Ceruleans are difficult to spot and are a cause of “warbler neck” as they usually stay in the canopy, foraging on small insects such as caterpillars, spiders and leaf hoppers. Preferring sugar maple, white oak, and chestnut oak trees, the female, by herself, builds a cup-shaped nest, using spider webs for (Continued on Page 8)

Cerulean Warblers, continued from Page 7

cohesion, on a horizontal branch over an opening about 30 feet or more off the ground. She lays three to five eggs which she incubates for about 12 days. The male helps feed the hatchlings, which stay in the nest for only 10 - 12 days. By early July, the young are mostly fledged, and the birds start migration not long afterwards.

The Cerulean's rapid decline is thought to be due to habitat loss along its entire breeding, migratory, and winter range. Mountaintop removal coal mining has slowed down over the last decade but still exists. This mining method blasts open massive areas in the heart of Cerulean breeding grounds that is very difficult to restore and reforest and probably will never again be suitable for Cerulean nesting. As Ceruleans migrate, they cross the Gulf of Mexico and fly along Central America, stopping to rest and refuel, where again they deal with deforestation due to development and agriculture, especially coffee plantations. They winter along a narrow strip in the northern Andes in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and northern Bolivia, where deforestation primarily for coffee plantations again is a problem.

Katie attended a conference in Colombia, where coffee growers said that they prefer not to destroy forests but, in order to feed their families, they need a dependable and sizeable market in the United States for shade-grown coffee. The growers like bird-friendly habitat because they don't need to use as much pesticide and fertilizer: the birds eat the insects off the coffee bushes, and the forest trees improve soil quality and prevent erosion. The forest trees also have a favorable effect on climate change, as they sequester carbon dioxide. Katie also visited the Cerulean Warbler Bird Reserve, a 545-acre oak forest in central Colombia that is the first preserve in Latin America dedicated to a bird that breeds in North America. The reserve has incorporated 37 acres of shade-grown coffee farms. Katie was delighted to see children dressed as Cerulean Warblers in a Migratory Bird Festival parade in Columbia!

On a personal note, Katie shared that studying Cerulean Warblers in the field contributed a lot to her healing after the shattering experience of having one of her students killed in the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting. She concluded her program by listing what we can do to help Cerulean Warblers. Foremost is buying certified shade-grown coffee from Central and South America, of which Smithsonian certified "Bird

Friendly" coffee is the gold standard. Shade-grown coffee is more flavorful as the beans have a longer time to mature. We can also support alternatives to mountaintop removal coal mining; manage Cerulean habitat via guidelines by the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture (<https://amjv.org/about/>); and support organizations that fund songbird conservation research. She stressed that when we travel to see Cerulean Warblers (or all birds for that matter) we tell the local residents the reason we are staying at their lodgings or eating at their restaurants, so that they understand that birds are good business. Katie reported that Sunset Field Overlook at mile 78.4 on the Virginia Blue Ridge Parkway near Peaks of Otter is a good site for seeing Ceruleans, and a program attendee added that Thompson Wildlife Management Area off Interstate 66 near Front Royal is also a good spot to see breeding Ceruleans in Virginia.

Among our Zoom attendees for Katie's program were two representatives of Community Cloud Forest Conservation (CCFC): fund raiser Kathleen Burger in northern Virginia, and founding director Rob Cahill in Guatemala. Kathleen reported that 5th and 6th grade classes at the CCFC school are closed due to COVID-19 but that has led to the availability of more time to plant trees to reconnect forest corridors funded by a large grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Kathleen joined Rob in thanking our club for the generous donations we've made to their organization over the years. 🐦



Red-bellied Woodpecker. Photo by Carol Annis.

WBC MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome is extended to new members Claudia Beckerle, Anne Arseneau, Kathleen Burger, and Glen Garada! If you would like to join our club or **renew your membership for 2021**, you can find a membership form to mail in on Page 9. 🐦



2021 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, ina-via@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.

A financial statement is available on request from the VA Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs



Williamsburg Bird Club
PO Box 1085
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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/>