



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 45 No. 1

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

January 2021

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Cheryl J. Jacobson



Welcome to a New Year!

At this point, election stress is abating. Audubon recently posted an article about what a Biden Presidency might mean for birds. You can read the article in its entirety at: [What Biden's Presidential Win Means for Birds and the Environment | Audubon](https://www.audubon.org/article/what-biden-presidential-win-means-for-birds-and-the-environment). In summary, President-elect Joe Biden has "pledged to end new fossil-fuel permitting on public lands, proposed a \$2 trillion climate plan with a carbon-free electric grid by 2035, and called for conserving 30 percent of the nation's land and water by 2030." Climate change is seen by many as the single [greatest threat to birds](#). Biden has pledged to immediately [rejoin the Paris Agreement](#), an international treaty on climate change. Further, "Biden has said he will end new fossil-fuel permits on all federal lands and waters. Doing so would not only slash emissions from public lands but also reduce threats to birds that live there, such as Greater Sage-Grouse in western oil and gas fields and the millions of waterfowl and other avian inhabitants of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, where the Trump administration is barreling toward the first-ever oil and gas lease sale."

### Biodiversity Loss is Hurting our Ability to Combat Pandemics

As we make progress in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to understand pandemics and the relationship between our impact on our earth and their increase. Here are some noteworthy facts and concepts I encountered in recent reading:

- "The frequency of disease outbreaks has been increasing steadily. Between 1980 and 2013 there were 12,012 recorded outbreaks, comprising 44 million individual cases and affecting every country in the world. A number of trends have contributed to this rise, including high levels of global travel, trade and connectivity, and high-density living — but the (Continued on Page 2)

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

By Tory Gussman and Dean Shostak

**January 20, via Zoom at 7 PM:** *Web-footed Waterbirds*, with presenter Bob Schamerhorn. You will receive a Zoom invitation via email a few days prior to the meeting.

We're starting 2021 off with a ducky presentation. Nothing fowl about it. "Sea" for yourself!

Plan to join us on **January 20** at 7 p.m. for wildlife photographer **Bob Schamerhorn's** presentation on web-footed waterbirds. Bob will illustrate his talk with beautiful photos highlighting winter birds that inhabit our lakes, rivers, and wetlands. You'll learn more about our wintering ducks, mergansers, geese, swans, and more. Enjoy the beauty of this diverse group of birds and see what makes each species unique.



Wood Duck. Photo by Bob Schamerhorn.

Looking ahead, mark your calendar for **February 17**, the date of WBC's annual joint meeting with the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists. **Dr. Bryan Watts**, Mitchell A. Byrd Research Professor of Conservation Biology from William & Mary, will be the featured speaker.

Our **March 17** program will feature Virginia birder extraordinaire, **Bob Ake**, speaking on the birds of Ghana. Learn about not only West African birds but also Ghana's mammals and something of the country's history. 🐦

## WBC EXECUTIVE BOARD 2020

<b>President</b> Cheryl Jacobson	303-519-0989 <a href="mailto:icheryljoy@aol.com">icheryljoy@aol.com</a>
<b>Co-Vice-President, Programs</b> Dean Shostak	757-880-4697 <a href="mailto:deanshostak@icloud.com">deanshostak@icloud.com</a>
<b>Co-Vice-President, Programs</b> Tory Gussman	757-897-3502 <a href="mailto:vgussman@gmail.com">vgussman@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Treasurer</b> Ann Carpenter	757-221-6683 <a href="mailto:carpenter17d@cox.net">carpenter17d@cox.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b> Cathy Millar	757-229-1775 <a href="mailto:millar.cathy@gmail.com">millar.cathy@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Member-at-Large</b> Shirley Devan	757-813-1322 <a href="mailto:sedevan52@cox.net">sedevan52@cox.net</a>
<b>Past President</b> Bill Williams	757-229-1124 <a href="mailto:billwilliams154@gmail.com">billwilliams154@gmail.com</a>

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2020/2021

<b>Membership/Webmaster</b> Jeanette Navia	757-707-3345 <a href="mailto:jnavia@gmail.com">jnavia@gmail.com</a>
<b>Field Trips</b> George Martin	757-920-5403 <a href="mailto:grm0803@gmail.com">grm0803@gmail.com</a>
<b>Bird Counts/Bird Walks</b> Jim Corliss	757-565-0536 <a href="mailto:jcorliss240@cox.net">jcorliss240@cox.net</a>
<b>Library Liaison</b> Lee Schuster	757-565-6148 <a href="mailto:dljschuster@cox.net">dljschuster@cox.net</a>
<b>Refreshments</b> Catherine Flanagan	757-879-1997 <a href="mailto:flanagan.catherine@gmail.com">flanagan.catherine@gmail.com</a>
<b>Historian</b> Patty Maloney	703-304-7885 <a href="mailto:maloney3013@aol.com">maloney3013@aol.com</a>
<b>Records/Liaison to CVWO</b> Nancy Barnhart	540-454-3014 <a href="mailto:barnhartnt@gmail.com">barnhartnt@gmail.com</a>

## President's Corner, Continued from Page 1

links to climate change and biodiversity are the most striking. Deforestation has increased steadily over the past two decades and is linked to 31% of outbreaks such as Ebola, and the Zika and Nipah viruses. . . . More broadly, climate change has altered and accelerated the transmission patterns of infectious diseases such as Zika, malaria and dengue fever, and has caused human displacement." ([\*How biodiversity loss is hurting our ability to combat pandemics\* | World Economic Forum](#)).

- "In the last 100 years, more than 90 percent of crop varieties have disappeared from farmers' fields . . . and all of the world's 17 main fishing grounds are now being fished at or above their sustainable limits." These trends have reduced diversity in our diets, which "is directly linked to diseases or health risk factors, such as diabetes, obesity and malnutrition." ([\*Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health\*](#))

- "The underlying causes of pandemics are the same global environmental changes that drive biodiversity loss and climate change. These include land-use change, agricultural expansion and intensification, and wildlife trade and consumption. These drivers of change bring wildlife, livestock, and people into closer contact, allowing animal microbes to move into people and lead to infections, sometimes outbreaks, and more rarely into true pandemics that spread through road networks, urban centres, and global travel and trade routes. The recent exponential rise in consumption and trade, driven by demand in developed countries and emerging economies, as well as by demographic pressure, has led to a series of emerging diseases that originate mainly in bio-diverse developing countries, driven by global consumption patterns. . . . Pandemic risk could be significantly lowered by reducing unsustainable consumption of wildlife and wildlife-derived products and of commodities from emerging disease hot spots, as well as by reducing excessive consumption of meat from livestock production." Climate change has also been blamed for disease emergence — such as tick-borne encephalitis in Scandinavia — and will probably cause substantial future pandemic risk, the experts warn. ([\*IPBES Workshop on Biodiversity and Pandemics Executive Summary\*](#))

(Continued on Page 3)

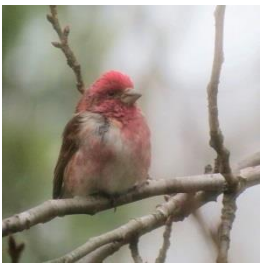
## Presidents Corner, Continued from Page 2

### WBC Executive Board—Slate for 2021

In an email to the membership, I presented the Slate of Officers for 2021. I was pleased to announce that all the current officers wish to continue. I also invited anyone who wished to make a nomination to do so by email. As I have had no email nominations, the following slate will be voted on during our Zoom meeting on January 20:

- President - Cheryl Jacobson
- Co-Vice-President, Programs - Dean Shostak
- Co-Vice-President, Programs - Tory Gussman
- Vice-President, Editor (*The Flyer*) - Mary Ellen Hodges
- Treasurer - Ann Carpenter
- Secretary - Cathy Millar
- Member-at-Large/Asst. Editor - Gary Carpenter
- Member-at-Large - Shirley Devan
- Past President - Bill Williams

### Christmas Bird Count



*Purple Finch. Photo by Cheryl Jacobson.*

Jim Corliss did a great job in organizing this year's CBC in spite of COVID-19 restrictions. He will do a report for the February newsletter. As a lot of folks are aware, we've experienced an influx of Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Evening Grosbeaks this winter. Jim reported on the day of the count (December 20) that we easily surpassed our old CBC record of 47 Pine Siskins — we're currently at 140 and still climbing. The Red-breasted Nuthatch (see photo Page 8) sightings are still coming in from feeder watchers. We've tallied 19 so far and it's hard to say yet how close we'll get to the record of 51 set in 2012. The Evening Grosbeaks weren't very plentiful (7 so far), but this is the first time we've observed that bird in our CBC for 23 years. I have been lucky to have all of these species at my feeders and birdbath. My favorites are the Purple Finch and the Evening Grosbeak (see photos on this page and Pages 4 and 8). If you don't have a birdbath, I suggest you set one up if you want to attract more birds.

### Newsletter Index

Were you aware that a searchable index listing every article published in *The Flyer* since January 2008 is

available on our [website](#)? Mary Anne Fennell has been maintaining this index for over ten years and has only recently decided it's time to pass the responsibility over to our newsletter editor. Thank you, Mary Anne, for your many dedicated years of hard work in providing this service to our club!

### Purple Martins

At this time, our club now has three Purple Martin colonies installed—one each at New Quarter, York River, and Chickahominy Riverfront parks. A WBC member who is selling her house near Gloucester Point has given our club the opportunity to purchase her colony at half price. Shan Gill and I met with her to determine the quality and movability of the Purple Martin pole and gourds. The system proved to be of superb quality. Moving it will take some coordinated effort as it is set in concrete; however, it appears that it will be possible to do so.



*Shan Gill (right) and Dean Shostak installing Purple Martin system at Chickahominy Riverfront Park. Photo by Cheryl Jacobson.*

We have looked at several locations in Gloucester County to determine where we can install the new system. We began at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and determined that the only appropriate site there is currently staked out for another project. There is excellent space at Gloucester Beach Park. It took many phone calls to reach a staff person with Gloucester City Parks, who then suggested we also check out Machicomoco State Park and Woodville City Park. In exploring those locations, we found that the state park is too remote and Woodville is too wooded. We subsequently made a request to the county to install at Gloucester Beach Park. After spending dozens of hours with the Gloucester Park Staff, touring all the parks they asked us to explore, etc., the Park Supervisor sent our request for installation to the Office Director with a favorable recommendation. After a long delay, I finally got word back that she will not approve the installation because, "she doesn't think it is pretty." (Continued on Page 4)



## President's Corner, Continued from Page 3

No way to change her thinking on that one. I have also sought placement on private land near the current location of the colony, but those homeowners turned me down for various reasons. Now I think the best alternative is VIMS. I have found another two relatively good spots on the campus, and Dan Cristol has indicated that he can help me seek approval for installation there.

### Holiday Cheer

I wish you Green Holiday Cheer as represented by the "Green Santa." Before he became red as part of the Coke campaign, Santa was green. In the 1930s, a certain American soft drink company decided Santa should be dressed in red as part of a marketing campaign, and that has stuck. The Green Santa likely represented the coming of spring. He wore a long, green, hooded cloak, along with a wreath of holly, ivy, or mistletoe, and had the ability to make people

happier during the long winter months. So, I wish you Green Holiday Cheer during these long COVID-19 winter months! Spring is coming and with it vaccinations!! We will soon be seeing one another and going on bird walks and field trips and meeting in person! 🐦



Evening Grosbeak, James City County. Photo by Carol Annis.

## CAROUSEL OF BIRD BOOKS

Since 1977 the WBC has provided the Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL) an annual donation from which books and other media about birds are purchased for the library's collection. At the suggestion of Barry Trott, who is the WRL Special Project and Technical Services Director as well as a WBC member, WBC's Webmaster, Jeanette Navia, recently added to the WBC's website a "carousel" (pictured

below) of books that the library offers on birds. If you click on the cover of one of the items in the carousel, you are taken to the library's catalog entry for that item, where you can read a summary of the book's contents or even request the book from the library. You can learn more about the long-standing partnership between the WBC and WRL and view the carousel of bird books by clicking on this [link](#). 🐦



## WBC MEMBERSHIP — TIME TO RENEW FOR 2021

Please welcome new member Carolyn Morgan to the WBC! According to Jeanette Navia, WBC Membership Chairperson, Carolyn joins about 215 other paying members, and it's now time for the rest of us to renew our memberships for 2021. Please print the form on Page 9 and mail it in soon. Our dues help finance our many club programs and projects, including our student research grants and Nature Camp scholarships. 🐦

## THE STORY BEHIND SAVING VIRGINIA'S LARGEST SEABIRD COLONY

By Cathy Millar

The title of our November 18, 2020 program was *Colonial Nesting Waterbirds on HRBT South Island: Reflections on birds, politics, journalism and environmental activism!* A long title for a fascinating story told by Sarah Karpanty, a professor at Virginia Tech (VT) in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and a team member of the Virginia Tech Shorebird Program. Sarah arrived at VT to do post-doctoral work studying Red Knots in the Delaware Bay and has served as a faculty member for the past 14 years. She has been studying shorebirds and seabirds on the US Atlantic and Gulf coasts to determine ways these imperiled birds can survive on our highly developed coasts in the face of climate change with rising sea level and stronger storms. Sarah noted that science has often determined that the best conservation policies are those of active management that allow natural processes to occur, such as the reshaping of islands by storms. But, to date, the most interesting project of her career has been the active management of creating a new habitat for Virginia's largest seabird colony, which was being dislocated from its nesting site on South Island by the need to use the island as a construction staging site during the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) Expansion project. Sarah first made it clear that none of the seabird relocation project would have been possible without Ruth Beck, who decades ago established the partnership with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to allow these birds to nest on South Island (see related tribute on Page 6), and the conservation work that Ruth and her team, including our WBC Board members Bill Williams and Lee Schuster, conducted.

A census taken every 3 to 5 years since the early 1990's of all the colonial waterbirds in Virginia has emphasized the importance of HRBT's South Island nesting habitat. All the waterbirds, with the exception of Sandwich Terns, have been declining dramatically due to loss of habitat from erosion of islands from storms and rising sea levels. Across this time period, there has been a 34% decline statewide of Royal Terns with 84% of state birds nesting on HRBT; 42% decline of Gull-billed Terns with 7% nesting on HRBT; 80% decline of Common Terns with 46% on HRBT; 59% decline of Black Stilts with 23% on HRBT; and a 63% decline of Laughing Gulls with 24% on HRBT. There has been a 240% increase statewide of Sandwich Terns with 98% nesting on

HRBT. The South Island has also been the nesting grounds of the Black Skimmer, American Oystercatcher, Killdeer, Snowy Egret, Ruddy Turnstone, Spotted Sandpiper, Double-crested Cormorant, Herring Gull, and Great Black-backed Gull. It has been estimated that at least 15,000 adults plus nestlings have led to a grand total of 25,000 seabirds annually using South Island, where they have felt safe from predators and have had access to the rich food resources at the confluence of the James River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Sarah and her team were contacted in 2017 by VDOT to assist them in developing different options for the bird colony in light of the planned expansion of the HRBT. They were contracted to also band many of the different species so they could be followed if relocated. Her team reported that there didn't appear to be any other suitable nesting places in Virginia for these birds that often live 15 – 25 years. They proposed 16 conservation alternatives, with a new island and island extension as the preferred options. The relocation project stalled until a story was run on our local public radio station in August 2019 about the importance of the threatened South Island seabird colony and then was picked up by National Public Radio. Then, on December 24, 2019, the New York Times used the story to highlight the problems created by the Trump administration's weakening of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The story received further notice in January 2020 via op-eds, including one by our club member Dr. Mitchell Byrd in the Virginia-Pilot. The American Bird Conservancy also wrote a January op-ed in the Washington Post and organized a letter-writing campaign. Sarah thanked WBC profusely for our active involvement in writing letters and attending meetings. She noted that the massive number of letters and phone calls to the governor's office and VDOT got the state's attention. In February, Governor Northam announced that Virginia was going to implement a three-point plan to save the colony: (1) Create an interim nesting site on Rip Raps Island (located immediately north of the South Island, and connected to it by a narrow causeway); (2) Create artificial float- ing habitat on barges for additional needed space; (Continued on Page 6)

## Saving Seabird Colony, Continued from Page 5

and (3) Write and enact a Virginia version of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act independent of the federal one.

Sarah reported that, with time running out before the seabirds would be returning, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR) and VDOT stepped up and accomplished the impossible just when most everything was shutting down due to COVID-19. These birds have high nest site fidelity and, to deter them from returning to South Island, VDOT covered the old nesting sites with wire and hired the services of 20 border collies trained to safely chase birds off as they returned 24/7. VDWR prepared Rip Raps Island, which is the site of historic Fort Wool, built in 1819 and decommissioned in 1953, by removing vegetation, putting up barriers to keep chicks from falling into military installations, and laying a lot of sand. The US Department of Agriculture was hired to remove rats from the island. As the last sand was being spread on May 1<sup>st</sup>, birds had already landed, and they began mating before VDWR could remove their bulldozers and Sarah's team could add decoys

and acoustic lures to attract them. The Rip Raps site is only one-third the size of South Island. With the addition of seven barges off shore, the new nesting areas still comprise only half the area that South Island had provided. Nonetheless, the relocation has been a great success, with data showing that the same number of Royal and Sandwich terns that in previous years had nested on South Island successfully nested in 2020 on Rip Raps Island. But this is only a successful, interim solution. Now VDWR is working on securing funding and getting permits from the US Army Corp of Engineers to build nearby a new 10 - 15-acre island equivalent to the size of South Island as permanent habitat.

Sarah concluded by saying how important our club's involvement has been to the relocation project, and she encouraged us to stay engaged and help by continuing to support VDWR and keeping abreast of what they need to make progress. She also encouraged us to follow up by thanking Governor Northam, VDOT, and VDWR for their efforts on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This incredible conservation success was a completely state-run operation. 🐦

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## REMEMBERING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RUTH BECK

By Dan Cristol

*Editor's Note: In May 2021 it will have been six years since Ruth Ann Beck, Emeritus Professor of Biology at William & Mary and one of the founders of the WBC, passed away at 72 years of age. In light of the efforts in 2019 and 2020 of bird advocates and state governmental officials to address the future of the seabird colony disrupted by the expansion of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, the WBC Board believed it fitting to honor Professor Beck at this time by remembering her many contributions to the conservation of this seabird colony and our club. A longer version of this tribute by Dan Cristol was originally published in the Summer 2015 issue of The Flyer.*

The birds have lost a great friend. . . . Ruth helped birds at many levels, starting with the superb bird feeders at the lakeside home which she shared with husband Sherwin. Her feeder spread was so alluring it drew in species rarely fond of birdseed, especially Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings. Ruth worked right up to the time of her death documenting and managing the nesting success of our dwindling colonial waterbirds, most notably the Least Terns of Craney Island and the huge tern and gull colony dependent on the rocks of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel.

These human-created habitats have become important refuges for birds being displaced from our Barrier Islands as rising sea levels slowly drown out their natural nesting colonies. The owners of these properties have reason to resent the descending

hordes of waterbirds, which create transportation hazards and require workers to accommodate in all sorts of ways. But for decades Ruth has been able to graciously negotiate fair treatment for the birds, and to enlist an army of dedicated volunteers and students to manage their habitats. I have worked alongside retired schoolteachers, conscripted college students and members of a prison work detail to ensure that the picky Black Skimmers had the proper surface of weed-free, flat sand for their nests. (Continued on Page 7)



Portrait of Ruth Beck by Shirley Devan.



## Remembering Ruth Beck, Cont. from Page 6

Ruth, who started at William & Mary in 1969, developed, taught and supervised biology laboratories for tens of thousands of college students. These were the first intensive lab experiences for freshmen, and were often formative. She inspired countless undergraduates to go on to take courses in ornithology and to pursue birds as a hobby or profession. Ruth also hired scores of students to assist in her summer research with tern and gull nesting colonies, and turned many apathetic field hands into aspiring scientists. To the end she carried out weekly surveys of Craney Island, one of Tidewater's most exciting birding destinations, with a crew of volunteer local birders.

Besides inspiring countless future scientists, birders and conservationists, and spearheading important local research and land management projects, Ruth was also a stalwart contributor to what is known as citizen science, the enlisting of non-professionals to

gather data for scientific research. For more than forty years Ruth and a crew of birders has been monitoring the bird populations of Williamsburg as part of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. . . .

Ruth may be best remembered locally as one of the founders, longtime presidents, and benefactors of the Williamsburg Bird Club. . . . Under Ruth's direction, the club has for decades raised money to provide research grants to William & Mary graduate and undergraduate students undertaking bird research, and has provided scholarships for kids to attend Nature Camp, purchased books for the library, and sustained educated interest in birds. The Williamsburg Bird Club, through Ruth's continuous generosity of spirit, has become one of the best examples of a sustained town-gown interaction that I know of anywhere. With generosity, humor and intelligence, Ruth Beck left the world a better place than she found it, and inspired many others to do the same. 🐦

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## COUCH'S KINGBIRD

By Judy Jones

On Black Friday 2020, Barbara Houston and I decided that the malls and shopping centers didn't begin to hold the glamour and allure that could be found in Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, wandering the island searching for an amazing Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) which was first sighted earlier in November and is the first state record. The species is a flycatcher that is usually found from southern Texas along the Gulf Coast to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, Belize, and northern Guatemala. What this bird was doing on the Eastern Shore of Virginia is anybody's guess!

Well, we lucked out. Once we entered the refuge and drove down the main drive, we pulled off the side of the road by the pony penning area and there it sat, warming in the sun. The kingbird flew from bush to tree to bush, searching for some sunshine and delectable bugs, while we madly pushed the shutters on our cameras. Finally, after about 30 minutes, the bird flew off and wasn't seen again for most of the day.

From my readings I've learned that the "Couch's Kingbird, named for Darius Couch, a naturalist and soldier who collected the first specimen in 1853, is a

large, yellow-and-gray flycatcher that looks nearly identical to the more widespread Tropical Kingbird. Couch's Kingbirds have a slightly greener cast to the upperparts and on balance a shorter bill, but the best way to distinguish the two species is to listen to their calls—Couch's makes a distinctive, grating *kip-kip-breerer*. Couch's Kingbird uses lightly wooded areas such as thorn forest, wooded stream edges, and areas with scattered trees" ([All About Birds](#)). Barbara and I count ourselves lucky to have seen this remarkable and very beautiful bird. It was truly the best Black Friday ever!! 🐦



Couch's Kingbird, Accomack Co., VA. Photo by Judy Jones.

## WESTERN MEADOWLARK

By Nancy Barnhart

A Western Meadowlark was found by Brian Taber on December 18, 2020 at Mainland Farm/Drummond's Field. It is the very first state record and a bonus that it was found within our Historic Triangle area. The bird stands out from the Eastern Meadowlarks it was associating with by its overall paler impression and a completely yellow malar area. Many birders from around the state came to see this outstanding find. 🐦

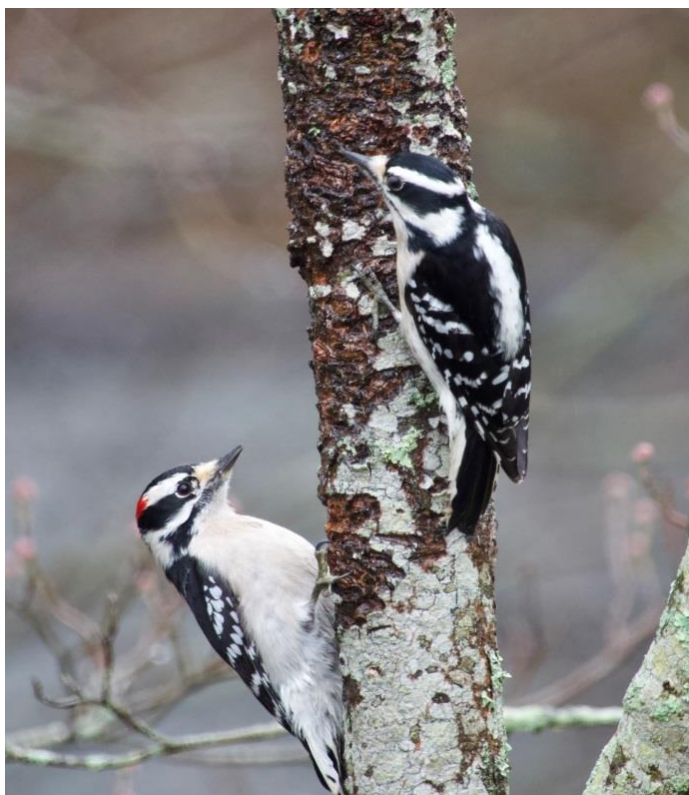


Western Meadowlark. Photo by Nancy Barnhart.



Cedar Waxwing (first photo above) and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Photos by Inge Curtis.

## OTHER RECENT SIGHTINGS



Downy Woodpeckers. Photo by Inge Curtis.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo (first photo above; sighted on November 2, 2020) and Evening Grosbeaks. James City Co. Photos by Carol Annis.





## 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,  
[jnavia@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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



**Williamsburg Bird Club**  
**PO Box 1085**  
**Williamsburg, VA 23187**

## **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/>