



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 45 No. 9

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

November 2021

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Cheryl J. Jacobson



As I think back over the last eight years, four as President and four as Vice President, I feel very honored and thankful that you allowed me to lead your Club. I have tried to bring new ideas and develop a focus on conservation and education. I have appreciated all the positive feedback and support that I have received from so many of you! During this time, your safety has been a priority with the many issues created by COVID-19. The cancelation of the Virginia Society of Ornithology annual meeting, monthly meetings by Zoom, and limiting bird walks and field trips are just three examples of what your Board has faced.

I had planned for us to meet in person in January 2022 but, because the Board has heard that some members are not comfortable in doing so at this time, we will use Zoom again for the January meeting. I had also planned to have cake at the January meeting and a celebration of the many new members that have joined. I think the great educational programs we have offered as well as our focus on conservation are two reasons our membership is growing rapidly. Dan Cristol has agreed to be our presenter in January in the Zoom meeting, and Bill Williams will stand by for presenting at a future face-to-face meeting. Since virtual cake has little flavor (ha ha), we will plan to delay the celebration.

### New Club YouTube Channel

Because of the limited storage space on Zoom, for over a year I have wanted WBC to have our own YouTube channel to be able to share our great programs. Our great guru, Ann Carpenter, has recently created one! I know many of you missed Dr. Watt's wonderful presentation on Black Rails and asked me for the Zoom link after it was no longer available. You can now find this presentation and other content on the Club's YouTube channel page at (Continued on Page 2)

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

By Tory Gussman

**November 17, 7:00 pm (via Zoom): Bob Schamerhorn, "Attracting Birds with Water."**

Birds, like all other animals, prefer environments that meet all their basic survival needs: food, shelter, and water. They depend on water for hydration, to maintain body temperature, and to condition their feathers for flight. Not surprisingly, having a consistent source of clean-running water tends to attract a greater assortment of birds to your garden. At our November meeting photographer Bob Schamerhorn will share delightful photos of birds drinking, bathing, and splashing in a garden environment. He'll also give instructions on how to construct and install a simple and effective bird fountain.

Bob is a national award-winning nature photographer with nearly 50 years of experience. His fine art nature photography is regularly exhibited at art festivals throughout the mid-Atlantic. His goal is to educate and inspire the conservation of nature by capturing and sharing its beauty.

Please join us via Zoom on November 17 at 7:00 pm and see how a little water can enhance both your garden and your enjoyment of nature, right in your own backyard.

There will be no program/business meeting in December, but we will meet again in January. 🐦



Cedar Waxwings. Photo by Bob Schamerhorn.

## WBC EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021

<b>President</b> Cheryl J. Jacobson	303-519-0989 <a href="mailto:icheryljoy@aol.com">icheryljoy@aol.com</a>
<b>Vice-President, Programs</b> Tory Gussman	757-897-3502 <a href="mailto:vgussman@gmail.com">vgussman@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice-President, Editor (<i>The Flyer</i>)</b> Mary Ellen Hodges	757-220-0566 <a href="mailto:me.hodges@cox.net">me.hodges@cox.net</a>
<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>
<b>Member-at-Large/Assistant Editor</b> Gary Carpenter	757-221-6683 <a href="mailto:carpent66@cox.net">carpent66@cox.net</a>
<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 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:dlschuster@cox.net">dlschuster@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>
<b>Conservation Committee</b> Cheryl J. Jacobson	303-519-0989 <a href="mailto:icheryljoy@aol.com">icheryljoy@aol.com</a>



Over thirty Club members gathered around the fire pit at Chickahominy Riverfront Park on the evening of September 30 to learn about the WBC's Purple Martin Project. The purpose of the meeting was to recruit volunteers to monitor our four colonies. Pictured standing in the center of the photo is President Cheryl Jacobson displaying one of the "gourds" used to house the birds. Photo by Judy Jones.

### President's Column, Continued from Page 1

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpNw3WJbMyvAHDsMAhXcfNA> or reach the Black Rail presentation directly on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vyntbZD0GY&t=54s>

### Club Officers for 2022

Our by-laws state: "Election of officers shall be held at the last Club meeting of the year. Any member is eligible for any office. Usually at the October meeting a Nominating committee is designated. The slate shall be presented to the membership via the November issue (usually) of the Club's monthly newsletter, and from the podium during the November meeting. Election will take place at the November meeting. Nominations will be invited for any office and may be made from the floor at the November meeting prior to voting by the membership. All nominees must have indicated their willingness to serve, if elected."

At our June Board Meeting, I appointed a nominating committee of Ann Carpenter, Shirley Devan, and Nancy Barnhart to present nominees for the positions of President and Vice-President, Programs for 2022. Thank you to the Committee for their hard work. During the Board's next meeting in October, the nominating committee put forth the names of Nancy Barnhart as President and Patty Maloney as Vice-President, Programs. All other board members would like to continue. You will be asked to vote on (Continued on Page 3)

## President's Corner, Continued from Page 2

the slate of officers listed below at our November meeting. Please note that committee chairpersons are not elected but are appointed by the elected President.

The slate for the 2022 Williamsburg Bird Club Board of Directors is:

- President: Nancy Barnhart
- Vice-President, Programs: Patty Maloney
- Vice-President, Editor of *The Flyer*: Mary Ellen Hodges
- Past President: Cheryl Jacobson

- Secretary: Cathy Millar
- Treasurer: Ann Carpenter
- Members-at-Large: Gary Carpenter, Shirley Devan

So, for now, I sign off as your President, soon to be Past President. I look forward to having more time to bird (will see you on the trails), and to focus on bird conservation. You will continue to hear from me with updates on the Purple Martin Project, and I hope to write newsletter articles and listserve emails often as the Conservation Chair if I am asked by the newly-elected President to continue in that role. This Club and knowing all of you are very special to me! Again, I thank you for all you do for BIRDS! 🐦

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## BIRD WALKS

*By Cheryl Jacobson and Jim Corliss*

What a delightful bird walk we had on October 30 at New Quarter Park! There were seventeen birders participating: six of them new members in the Club, and one who has returned and was in the original Club! Welcome new members; we are thrilled to have you join us! It is also always great to see our other members joining with us. The marsh and woods are beautiful this time of the year, and our leader, Jim Corliss, pointed out some great birds. You can find the eBird checklist for the walk at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S96897169?subID=S96897169>.

The November bird walk at New Quarter Park will be on the 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. We will not have a bird walk in December because the fourth Saturday falls on

Christmas Day and we have the Christmas Bird Count on the 19<sup>th</sup>. 🐦



*Many new members joined us on the Club's October 30 walk at New Quarter Park. Photo by Cheryl Jacobson.*

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## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - SUNDAY DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>

*By Jim Corliss*

The Williamsburg Bird Club is participating in its 45th Christmas Bird Count this year on Sunday, December 19. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is sponsored by the National Audubon Society and our count data become part of the 122-year long record of bird population trends in North America, Central America, and parts of South America. The CBC is the longest-running community science bird project in the United States. The CBC is conducted by establishing "count circles" that are 15 miles in diameter. Within each circle teams and individuals spend the day counting and identifying all of the birds that are observed in their specific areas within the circle.

Our bird club is the steward of the Williamsburg Count Circle which is centered in Colonial Williamsburg and extends out to cover Jamestown Island to the West, Hog Island to the South, and a small portion of Gloucester to the East. Club members can participate on field teams or at their homes as feeder-watchers. In recent years we have had between 120 and 150 members of our club and community provide their count data for our Williamsburg circle. If you are interested in participating in this important citizen science project, please contact Jim Corliss at [jcorliss240@cox.net](mailto:jcorliss240@cox.net). 🐦





White Ibis photographed by Paula Perdoni at the Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR during the Club's field trip on October 16.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

By George Martin

### **Saturday, October 16 – Eastern Shore**

Thirteen birders joined leader Matt Anthony on Saturday, October 16 for a good day of birding on the Eastern Shore. Some of the group stopped at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Overlook to start the day, where several gulls and pelicans were observed along with a lone Willet. At the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge, Yellow-rumped Warblers were abundant. The group saw four other warbler species, including a Nashville Warbler. The group also stopped at Ramp Road, where two Bald Eagles flushed a large flock of White Ibis. Nancy Barnhart was the counter for the day at the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch, and she gave the group a brief overview of raptor flight habits and silhouettes. A Peregrine Falcon deigned to fly by during the stop! During a short walk on Kiptopeke's trails, several sparrows were identified. After all that birding, hunger pangs set in, and many members of the group gathered at Cape Charles Brewing Company for lunch.

In total, the participants identified 51 species during the trip. The links to the separate checklists follow.

CBBT Overlook:

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S96215243>

ESVANWR Visitor Center:

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S96251781>

ESVANWR Ramp Road:

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S96251785>

Kiptopeke Hawk Watch:

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S96251789>

Kiptopeke Lodges Path:

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S96251787>

### **Upcoming: Saturday, November 20 – Grandview Nature Preserve**

On Saturday, November 20, Nancy Barnhart will lead interested Club members on a trip through Grandview Nature Preserve in Hampton. The walk at Grandview will start at 8 a.m. If anyone would like to carpool, please inform George Martin at [grm0803@gmail.com](mailto:grm0803@gmail.com). Carpoolers should plan to leave Colony Square Shopping Center by 7:15 am. Drivers can dictate conditions for their passengers – vaccination status, masking, etc. There are no restroom facilities at Grandview. If necessary, plan to stop at a 7-11 on Beach Road, about a mile from the entrance to the Preserve. 🐦



A stop along the Wildlife Trail in the Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR during the Club's October 16 field trip.  
Photo by Joe Jones.

## SAVE THE DATE - CBBT ISLANDS BOAT TRIP

By George Martin

The Club has reserved the vessel *Nancy Ann* for a birding trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel islands on **Sunday, January 16, 2022**. It's too early

to sign up yet — we'll start taking signups in December. Watch your email for further information! 🐦

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## WBC MEMBERSHIP

We warmly welcome two new members this month: Dawn Hagan and John Bensel.

**Please renew your membership for 2022.** Thanks to the work of Jeanette Navia, Membership Chair, and Ann Carpenter, Treasurer, you now have the option of renewing your membership and making donations online with PayPal at this link:

<https://williamsburgbirdclub.org/membership/>. If you want to make donations to our various programs when you renew, please click the "Continue Shopping" link in the upper right-hand corner of the screen after you are taken to your PayPal shopping cart. You still have the option of renewing your membership by sending in a check with the renewal form located online and on Page 9 of this newsletter. 🐦

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## NEW YEAR'S DAY BIRD SHOW RESUMES FOR 2022 AT NEW QUARTER PARK

By Shirley Devan

We last gathered for the Club's traditional New Year's Day Bird Show almost two years ago — January 1, 2020 BC — "Before Covid." Exactly two years later we'll gather again Saturday, January 1, 2022, at New Quarter Park at the Fire Circle for the "New Year's Day Bird and Birder Show." I've added "Birder Show" to the name of this event because we want our Club's "birders" to show up for this event too — particularly our new members who have joined in the last couple of years, many of whom we have yet to meet in person.

The 2022 gathering will be the 16<sup>th</sup> "almost-annual" event. Past events have been at Greensprings Trail Boardwalk. With the increasing bike and dog traffic on the Boardwalk, I decided to move the event to New Quarter Park. The Fire Circle provides a larger gathering area and is not a thruway for bikers and dog walkers. Plus, many Club members know the Park from our monthly bird walks there. And there is plenty of parking space.

Meet me at the Fire Circle between 1:00-3:00 pm. The park staff has graciously agreed to get a fire going in the fire pit. Relax and visit with new and old friends on the benches while you warm your hands or venture out around the park to find our wintering birds. The address for New Quarter Park is 1000 Lakeshead Drive, Williamsburg. You can find directions to the park on its website at <https://www.yorkcounty.gov/1816/New-Quarter-Park>.

The Park Brochure on the website shows the path from the parking lot to the Fire Circle.

Come as you are! Bring visiting family, friends, and children; come early, stay late, or just drop by. Remember, every bird is a year bird on New Year's Day! I look forward to welcoming you to celebrate the start of 2022. 🐦



Join fellow Club members on January 1 at New Quarter Park to greet "Baby New Year!" (Photo of our club bird by Mary Ellen Hodges, August 2017, Riverside Doctors' Hospital.)

## SYLVAN HEIGHTS BIRD PARK AND BREEDING FACILITY

By Cathy Millar

Brent Lubbock, Director of Operations and Development of Sylvan Heights Bird Park, gave an entertaining presentation about the park's missions at our October 20 meeting. His parents, Mike and Ali Lubbock, moved from England to North Carolina in 1981. Bringing with them an extensive knowledge



*Common Goldeneye.  
Photo by Judy Jones at  
Sylvan Heights Bird Park.*

about waterfowl, they began breeding waterfowl in Sylva, NC. In 1989, they moved the entire collection to Scotland Neck, NC, where they established Sylvan Heights Breeding Center, which has become a world-renowned captive breeding facility for rare and endangered ducks, geese, and swans. To avoid disturbance to the important nesting birds in the Avian Breeding Center, the Lubbock's opened Sylvan Heights Bird Park in 2006 to present to the public their exhibit of one of the largest conservation centers and collections of exotic and rare waterfowl in the world plus many other birds, totaling over three thousand individuals representing 400 species. The 18-acre facility features spacious walk-through aviaries, and the birds are displayed according to the continents to which their species are native: South America, North America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australasia. As a non-profit organization, one of the park's core missions is teaching school children the importance of saving wildlife.

Brent showed us wooden eggs that are used to stimulate egg-laying behavior, as well as a variety of real eggs and beautiful feathers. He introduced us to one of their program birds: Woodrow, the Wood

Duck. With seventeen endangered species on site, including some of the world's rarest birds — like the White-winged Wood Duck from Sumatra, the Scaly-sided Merganser from China, and our native Whooping Crane — he described the facility as an Ark of sorts as they work toward protecting these species from extinction. They participate with zoos and other facilities in Survival Species Plans that keep track of how many species are left in captivity, so that if a species disappears in the wild, they can raise offspring to be reintroduced under proper conditions. When possible, they involve the local governments and people to enlist their aid in protecting these species and saving their habitats. At Sylvan Heights, they educate people from around the world so they can bring an understanding of a species' needs back to their country.

Brent described some of the challenges of imitating the correct habitat for different species to feel comfortable nesting. For example, the Red-breasted Goose nests in Siberia during a period of 24 hours of sunlight so they set up spotlights for successful breeding. A barn has been equipped with mirrors for flamingos to breed in so that these birds feel as if they are in a large flock. Sylvan Heights also receives birds from zoos that can't house them and then these birds become educational ambassadors.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my two visits to the park and look forward to more. The birds are in natural settings, which is great for taking photographs, and the experience of feeding flamingos from the hand is not to be missed. The full presentation is available for viewing on the Club's new YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpNw3WJbMyvAHDsMAhXcfNA>. 🦆

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## TEN KIPTOPEKE CHALLENGE TEAMS FIND 163 SPECIES

By Dave Youker

Another successful year for the Kiptopeke Challenge! Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory's (CVWO) single-day birding event was held September 25, 2021, and ten teams spent the day combing eastern Virginia in search of different species. Sadly, we had no Youth team this year, but there were seven 24-hour teams, two 3-hour teams, and a single Special Venue team.

The weather was ideal for this big day of birding, but many teams struggled to find those elusive warblers. The Children of the Phrag team took the honors for the 24-hour category with a respectable 138 species and will receive the American Woodcock trophy. In the 3-hour category, the Bloxom Black Swans edged out the Machicomoco Meadowlarks for the Bald Eagle trophy with a total of 53 species. Finally, the Eagle Eyes on the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch Platform took (Continued on Page 7)



## Kiptopeke Challenge, Continued from Page 6

the Special Venue category with an impressive 74 species and will be presented with the Wild Turkey trophy.

The total number of species across all teams was 163, which is about our average over the 27 years of the Kiptopeke Challenge. There were 15 species that every team had on their list, but there were also 33 species that appeared on only one team's list. This latter number indicates how dedicated these teams were in searching all the various habitats throughout the coastal plain of Virginia.

Finally, as this is CVWO's big fundraising event of the year, the team raising the most funds received the Piping Plover trophy. While the competition was close this year, the award went to the Gulls Gone Wild team for the fifth consecutive year. Their impressive total was \$5,805.15. Even more impressive was the total raised by all teams: \$17,283.03. This grand total represents the outstanding support from every team member and every person that supports these teams. WBC members who participated in this

year's Challenge were Brian Taber (on Northampton for Ned team) and Nancy Barnhart, Sue Mutell, Joyce Lowry, and Shirley Devan (who formed the Gulls Gone Wild team). 🐦



*Congratulations to Club members (left to right) Shirley Devan, Joyce Lowry, Nancy Barnhart, and Sue Mutell, a.k.a. Gulls Gone Wild, who earned the Piping Plover trophy for most funds raised in CVWO's 2021 Kiptopeke Challenge!*

## RECENT SIGHTINGS

Please share YOUR recent sightings by sending them to Mary Ellen Hodges, Newsletter Editor, at [me.hodges@cox.net](mailto:me.hodges@cox.net).

**Carol Annis** shared sightings of three birds she saw during the past several weeks in Toano: **Blackburnian Warbler** on September 25, **Yellow-breasted Chat** on October 13, and **Black-throated Green Warbler** on October 18.



*Black-throated Green Warbler. Photo by Carol Annis.*



*Blackburnian Warbler. Photo by Carol Annis.*

Several Club members have been birding James River Beach Park recently. During the past month **Bill Williams** has observed a **Prairie Warbler** (October 17), a **Tennessee Warbler** (October 18), and an **Indigo Bunting** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (October 23). **Nancy Barnhart** reported a **Cape May Warbler** on October 20 at the park. Nancy points out that this species tends to migrate slightly further east in the fall than in the spring, so we have a better chance of seeing them locally in fall migration. (Continued on Page 8)





*Yellow-breasted Chat. Photo by Carol Annis.*



*Indigo Bunting. Photo by Bill Williams.*



*Prairie Warbler. Photo by Bill Williams.*



*Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Photo by Bill Williams.*



*Tennessee Warbler. Photo by Bill Williams.*



*Cape May Warbler. Photo by Nancy Barnhart.*



*Golden-crowned Kinglet. Photo by Inge Curtis.*



**Inge Curtis** has witnessed a flurry of bird activity around her home in recent weeks. Inge shared photographs of a **Hermit Thrush** and a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** seen on October 24. 🐦

*Hermit Thrush. Photo by Inge Curtis.*





## 2022 Williamsburg Bird Club Membership Form

Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Email	Phone	

Your email will be used for WBC's email mailing list. You will receive announcements of upcoming bird walks, field trips, meetings, other events, and the full color email edition of the newsletter through this mailing list.

\_\_\_\_\_ Do you also want a b&w paper newsletter sent to your physical address?

**Membership:**      \_\_\_\_\_ New\*      \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual      \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ Family      \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ Patron      \$35

\_\_\_\_\_ Student      \$5

\*How did you hear about the Bird Club?

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### 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

\$\_\_\_\_\_ the Bird Club Conservation 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/>