

Williamsburg Bird Club

May 20, 2026

Meeting conducted via Zoom per request of speaker and hosted by Ann Carpenter at 6 pm

Attendance: 43

President's remarks: President Nany Barnhart welcomed everyone via zoom.

Program: Rexanne Bruno introduced our speaker, Larry Meade, who presented: *'Birding Four Corners of the Lower 48'*. Larry Meade loves photographing anything that he finds interesting in the natural world, and his colorful presentation featured not only birds, but also landscapes, animals, flowers, and insects he encountered in springtime adventures in Maine, Florida, Washington, and Southern California. Larry is president and a trip leader for the Northern Virginia Bird Club, and has been involved in numerous Audubon Christmas Bird Counts and North American Butterfly Association Butterfly Counts.

In Maine: Male Canadian Tiger Swallowtails puddling on moose dung to extract essential minerals and salts that are entirely missing from their sugary diet of flower nectar and that are needed to boost their reproductive success. The Black-backed Woodpecker that was his 600th life bird. A Spear-marked Black Moth that flies during the day and looks like a butterfly.

In Washington: The Wandering Tattler that earned its name by its vast distribution across the Pacific Ocean from Siberia to Australia and throughout the Pacific Islands, and the high-pitched tattling whistle it emits when alarmed. The Surfbird, a stocky wader, that is closely related to our Red Knots. On a pelagic trip, he photographed the Pink-footed and Short-tailed Shearwater and the Black-footed and Laysan Albatross, many of which were following shrimp boats.

In Southern California: Larry continued to note that West Coast birds are often darker than their East Coast counterparts due to the ecological principle that animals in warmer, more humid environments develop darker, more heavily pigmented feathers to blend into shaded, wet habitats and resist bacteria. Some highlights were the Tri-colored Blackbird, LeConte's Thrasher, Yellow-footed Gull, California Towhee, and the California Sea Lion.

In Florida: Larry found that on the Dry Tortugas, at one time or another, just about all the birds came to the one fresh water fountain on the island that is supplied by a modern reverse osmosis desalination system. Highlights there were the Masked Booby, a Magnificent Frigatebird rookery, Brown Noddy, Black-whiskered Vireo, and Antillean Checkered-Skipper. In other places in Florida, he photographed the Snail Kite that has a bill adapted to eating large apple snails; the Mangrove Cuckoo, Key West Quail-Dove, Gray-headed Swamp Hen, and the West Indian Manatee.

Announcements:

Bird Walks – Scott Hemler:

- **Saturday, May 25:** Fourth Saturday New Quarter Park bird walk will meet in the parking lot by the park office at 8:00 am.

Newsletter, The Flyer – Mary Ellen Hodges, Editor: Nancy was informed by Mary Ellen that the deadline for the June newsletter is May 27th. Next newsletter will be in September. Nancy asked us to collect interesting photos, bird books, etc. over the summer for that newsletter.

Field Trips – George Martin: George reported on the May field trip at Chippokes Plantation. 12 people participated and 60 species were observed. September field trip to be determined.

Programs – Rexanne Bruno: Rexanne reported the following:

June 17: Meeting to be held at the Chickahominy Riverfront Park with the speaker, Marc Thibault, to talk about Mark Catesby, an 18th century naturalist/ornithologist in Williamsburg. He will speak about the birds he documented here, and his “revolutionary ideas about ecology”. Members to bring refreshments.

Special Greeting: Nancy sent out a special greeting to Paula from Minnesota, who was a local member, but now a long distance one.

Interesting Bird Sightings: George Martin reported an Anhinga in Ford’s Colony. Nancy reported 2 Ruddy Turnstones at the causeway at Jamestown. Judy Jones had a Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Greensprings. Shirley Devan reported that Prothonotary Warblers at Greensprings Trail are moving into the boxes after Chickadees ended nesting. One warbler had been banded last year by Shirley and is back and has laid 5 eggs. Last week, a dead Prothonotary Warbler with a band was brought to Judy’s house by a friend. Shirley identified it as banded last year when she had fledged youngsters. No idea how she had died. Nancy reported that York River State Park is her favorite place for finding warblers. Judy Jones reported that outside the Glass House at Jamestown is a good spot.

Nancy adjourned the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary Bird Club
May 25, 2026