

# Backyard Birds & Coffee

Be careful what you wish for

By  
Clyde Wilson

Call someone a yellow bellied sapsucker today and I'm sure the PC world will come down on you hard and with several legal reps to boot. I remember hearing some of the cowboys in the old western movies, many moons ago, calling some lowlife, "You yellow-bellied sapsucker!" and they would fight it out and the good guy would always win.

According to vocabulary.com the term yellow-bellied is to be cowardly or easily scared. If you're yellow-bellied, you're not brave. This word originally applied to birds that literally have a yellow belly, like the yellow-bellied sapsucker. From there, it came to mean an insult for cowards. If you're afraid to ask someone on a date, you're yellow-bellied. If you're easily frightened or spooked, you're yellow-bellied. This is often used as an insult or challenge, like "What are you, yellow-bellied?!"

Yet there is nothing cow-

ardly about the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker but rather beauty to behold. This woodpecker specializes in drilling rows of sap wells into the bark and then eats the insects attracted to the sap. (Merlin Bird apt).

I'm sure you've heard, "be careful what you wish" or even think as far as that goes. Reason being you just might get what it is you're wishing or thinking... I do believe that our thoughts attract what we bear in mind. As a matter of biblical concern 2 Corinthians chapter 10 verse 5 in the KJV tells us, "Cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ"; meditate on that, "bringing every thought", must be important.

What could that possible have to do with the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker? Well, at our bird club meeting the other night I mentioned that our birding friend, Jeff Blalock, reported seeing a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker the other day at Staunton View. We talked about

the bird, looked up what he looks like and what he sounds he makes. You also have to keep in mind that all those who attended the meeting as well as me had never seen this elusive woodpecker. Nonetheless all that info was downloaded into my brain. That was on Friday night.

Saturday morning arrives and it was dark and overcast if you remember. I opened the store and set about my morning routine which includes setting up the spotting scope to focus in on a couple of dead branches approx. a 100 yards away. This is a favorite bird perch, on the back 40. With this scope you bring whatever it is you're looking at 60 times closer. Most of the time there are usually a couple of crows sitting on the branches or a Red-headed Woodpecker but this morning I saw not one but 4 Pileated Woodpeckers fly over and one landed right on the dead branch. The nice thing about the scope is that I can attach my android phone to it a take pictures or video. Digiscoping as it is called is becoming one

of my favorite ways to see the birds at a distance. So I quickly attached my phone to snap a pic of the Pileated Woodpecker. Then a Downy Woodpecker landed so I thought but after carefully studying the bird I noticed it was larger than a Downy and had a large white strip on it shoulder and a yellow belly. Guess what? It was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Snap, snap and snap, a few pics and video as the thoughts lingering in my subconscious turn into reality. As we leave the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker allow me to leave you with a great thought for the week found in Philippians 4:8 King James Version (KJV), "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Change your thoughts, change your life, and be on the lookout for the "Yellow-bellied Sapsucker".

**Birding Notes & Quizzes**  
You can now view past articles of Backyard Birds & Coffee on line at www.

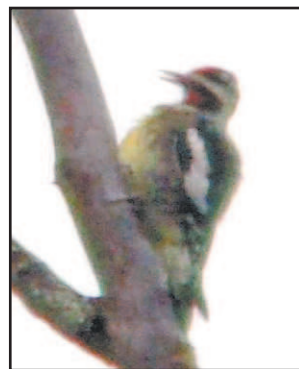
backyardbirdscoffee.com as well as check out the upcoming dates for Eagle & Rare Bird tours on line at www.backyardbirdscoffee.com

Kerr Lake Bird Club meets monthly. Next meeting Nov. 20, 2015. Social 6-7 pm. Meeting 7-8 pm. Like us on Facebook, Kerr Lake Bird Club. Next month's topic, "One turkey you don't want for Thanksgiving!"

The VSO annual field trip to Virginia Beach will be held Friday, December 4 through Sunday, December 6, 2015. On Friday a visit to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) is planned. The last trip of the weekend will be a tram ride at Back Bay NWR and False Cape State Park on Sunday morning. For additions to the schedule & updates, please see virginiabirds.net for details. If you are planning on going it's important to follow up now as part of this trip is limited to the first 45 who respond.

Last week's quiz: "What headless bird is this?" Congratulations to Linda Seeley who emailed saying, "Hi Clyde, Enjoy the Backyard Birds article that you write each week.

See BIRD, page 5B



Yellow Bellied Sap Sucker



Pileated Woodpecker



Northern Flicker

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**547 ARROW ROAD**, South Hill 16.65 acres, nicely secluded from the road with three bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, great room w/fp & gas logs, large kitchen & dining area with adjoining screened rear porch, main floor master bedrm & 2 large bedrms upstairs with good closets & storage. Separate over-sized garage with attached concrete slab w/roof. Mature wooded area has creek on the rear boundary. Must see. MLS115483-\$199,500



**4599 PLANK RD.** - 15.8 Acres with long road frontage on both US1South/58 & Plank Road starting at Dockery Road as the East Boundary and ending close to Union Level Road. Some nice open land, several acres of woods and an older home, with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, LR, DR & Kit w/ back porch, sold as is. The location is great. MLS115182-\$128,000



**2105 Goodes Ferry Rd, South Hill** Just outside town limits on 2.82 +/- acres. Lovely 3 bdrm 2 ba home is a great place to enjoy country living with just a few short minutes to town conveniences. Great Florida Room, w/back deck overlooking spacious back yard. Hardwood floors in the living & dining rooms and foyer. Nice laminate floors in remaining rooms with vinyl in the kitchen & baths. All appliances - stove (gas), frig, dishwasher, washer & dryer (gas) convey. Detached garage has automatic doors with one remote as well as a cooled and heated work shop/hobby room. Please call for an appointment to view this special property which can be seen most anytime. MLS114687 \$225,000



**916 PARK VIEW DR.** - Ranch home with 3 Bdrms and 2 full baths. LR & Kitchen with dining area has stove & refrigerator and closet with washer & dryer hookups. There is a handicap entrance at the front door. Single car garage has been enclosed for use as a den/family room. New roof, vinyl windows and almost new H2O Heater. MLS115096-\$124,900

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**NEW LISTING**

**\$122,000**

**WONDERFUL BRICK RANCH**  
App. 1500 sf, 3 BRs, 1.5 BAs, living room, dining room, eat-in kitchen, spacious den, wood stove insert. Huge utility room, washer & dryer included. Hardwood floors throughout (& under carpet). Large screened porch. 2 sheds, single carport. #115441 Call Beth Smith 434-447-9223

**NEW LISTING**

**\$399,000**

**SPACIOUS WATERFRONT HOME ROOM TO EXPAND!**  
1750± sf first floor, 3 BRs, 2 BAs, large great room & dining room. Kitchen center island, huge sunroom, dble. btsh., 1000± sf unfinished upper, 1800 sf full, unfinished basement. LOTS of storage. Possible Rental! #115351 Call Beth Smith 434-447-9223

**NEW LISTING**

**\$339,000**

**BEAUTIFUL, SPACIOUS BRICK HOME**  
23.26 ± ac., partially wooded, partially open, fenced area for horses. 2800+ sf, 4 BRs, 3 1/2 BAs, LR & DR both w/wood fp. Office, large kitchen & breakfast room. Beautiful hardwood floors, security system, 20x22 game room. Old dwelling on property partially renovated. Secluded & room to room. #115261 Call Beth Smith 434-447-9223

**NEW LISTING**

**\$96,000**

**GOLF COURSE - POTENTIAL**  
Fixer upper with 3 bedrooms & 2 baths has amazing curb appeal & so much potential. New roof in 2014, now needs cosmetic attention of flooring, paint, pressure washing & such. Beautiful mature hardwoods, asphalt drive, 2-car garage in the lower level of the home. #115066 Call Beth Cook 434-917-3599

**NEW LISTING**

**\$425,000**

**MORRISTOWN - MAIN LAKE HOME**  
3 BRs, open kitchen/den. large MBR & large MBA. Spacious sunroom off MBR overlooking MAIN LAKE. Finished basement, walk out patio, dble btsh, bulkheading. 2 car detached garage. #115054 Call Beth Smith 434-447-9223

**NEW LISTING**

**\$365,000**

**MERRYMOUNT - MAIN LAKE VIEW**  
Great subdivision, close to I-85 & Hwy #1, 3 BRs plus room for study/bed, etc., 2 BAs, open kitchen, dining area & great room. Spacious laundry room. Large screened porch overlooking gently sloping lot, single boathouse. #114016 Call Beth Smith 434-447-9223

**REDUCED**

**\$375,000**

**7.12 ACRES CLOSE TO SOUTH HILL!**  
THIS ONE HAS IT ALL-3 BRs, 2.5 BAs, lge kitchen, brkfst nook, DR, LR w/fp, wood floors & ceramic tile. Lge Master Suite down. Up: 2 BRs w/lots of storage. Basement is heated, partially finished. Breezeway leads to dble att. garage w/unfin. upstairs. Wonderful deck for entertaining or just relaxing overlooking countryside. #112909 Call Beth Smith 434-447-9223

**REDUCED**

**\$209,900**

**WONDERFUL LOW-MAINTENANCE BRICK HOME**  
Pettustown in South Hill - 3 BRs, 2 BAs, lge grt rm, dining rm & living rm. Spacious kitchen w/ceramic tile counters, eating area, wood floors, pantry & utility room. All appliances included! 16x24 deck, large back yard. Utility shed & play gym convey. #114142 Call Beth Smith 434-447-9223

**REDUCED**

**\$469,900**

**SELLER SAYS TIME TO SELL!**  
Beautifully maintained, unobstructed main lake views. Main floor Master Suite, 2 more BRs, 3 BAs, lge. GR & lower level rec rm fp, bonus room, triple garage, concrete drive, dble btsh w/ lifts, irrigation system, landscaping lights, level walk to water. #113528 Call Beth Cook 434-917-3599

**REDUCED**

**\$674,000**

**FANTASTIC MAIN LAKE HOME**  
AWESOME SUNSETS! Completely FURNISHED, 3 BRs, 2 additional rooms for office/exercise room, etc., 3 BAs, 2-car detached garage, beautifully landscaped, sprinkler system. Hot tub & golf cart convey. #114881 Call Beth Smith 434-447-9223

**REDUCED**

**\$225,000**

**PRICED TO SELL - WON'T LAST LONG**  
Like-new waterfront home on beautiful Pea Hill Creek. 3 BR, 2 BAs, living room w/cozy fp, ALL appliances, new carpeting. Kitchen & baths feature sky lights letting in lots of natural lighting. Hot tub, lakeside deck, fenced grassy yard leads to boathouse w/2 jet ski lifts. #115332 Call Beth Cook 434-917-3599

**REDUCED**

**\$226,000**

**EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-MAINTAINED**  
3 BRs, 2 BAs, hdwd floors, solid wood doors, ceramic tiled kitchen, laundry room & BAs. Screened porch, large deck. New paint, kitchen counters & all appliances within year. 2-car garage w/partially finished room. Covered, deeded boat slip w/elec. & boat lift across the road, large, secluded flat lot. #114361 Call Beth Cook 434-917-3599

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