

November 1977

WILLIAMSBURG BIRD CLUB NOTES

The November meeting of the Williamsburg Bird Club will be held in Millington Hall (Biology Building), room 117 at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 16, 1977. Please note this is a new meeting place for our club. For those of you unfamiliar with campus buildings, Millington is the building with the greenhouse on top and is directly behind Andrews Hall, our previous meeting place.

Our program will be presented by Gary Miller, a graduate student at William and Mary, who will talk on the family Picidae (woodpeckers).

The field trip for November will be held Saturday, Nov. 19. Final details will be announced at the meeting, but we plan to go to Hog Island in Surry County. This has always been a good birding area, especially for waterfowl. On October 31 four white-fronted geese were seen there. This is a good record for Virginia listers.

Other interesting Virginia sightings include two hudsonian godwits Oct. 23, 1977, at Back Bay. These birds were observed and photographed by Bill Williams. And on Oct. 30, 1977, Bill and Mitchell Byrd observed many ~~pine~~ ~~siskins~~, evening grosbeaks and a chimney swift at Kiptopeke; a Western kingbird at Townsend; and a rough-legged hawk and a black-billed cuckoo at Cape Charles Air Station.

The club field trip of October 22 to Craney Island in Portsmouth couldn't have proven better for the seven members who went. We arrived there about 8:15, greeted by a cool Hampton Roads harbor wind and some exciting birding. The American avocets were available in force (close to 500) as were black skimmers (600-700), numerous rasping caspian terns, greater yellowlegs, dunlins, and western sandpipers. During the course of the morning a number of life birds were added to some lists. Special birds that were well seen included one adult peregrine falcon, two Lapland longspurs (very early for these), horned larks, marsh and sharp-shinned hawks. A common loon casually floated near us for easy viewing, and Canada geese brought fall to our spirits as they descended lightly to join other geese already present. Aside from the great birds that seemed to be at every stop, a number of folks saw what at first looked like a bounding rabbit turn into -- of all things - a grey fox! All in all 42 species of birds were recorded by noon. This trip sets a great precedent for upcoming field excursions.

This Thanksgiving will be the 12th annual Thanksgiving window bird count. Here's a chance for you feeder enthusiasts to make a contribution in a national tally. Further information will be available at the meeting.

A reminder - our December field trip will be the first annual Williamsburg Christmas count. This count will be held Sunday, December 18, from sunrise to sunset.