

WILLIAMSBURG BIRD CLUB NOTES

The Williamsburg Bird Club will hold its December meeting on Wednesday, December 21, at 7:30 P.M. in Millington Hall (Room 117). Our program will be presented by Ruth Beck who will talk to us about the Fringillidae. This is the largest order of birds and includes the finches and sparrows, many of which we should be seeing at our feeders in the Williamsburg area.

In place of a field trip this month we will all be participating in the first annual Williamsburg Christmas Count. The count will be held this coming Sunday, December 18, from 6:30 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. We will assemble in the parking lot of the Williamsburg Information Center between 6:30 and 7:00 A.M. From there we will split up into groups and begin covering our assigned areas. If you can only help us for part of the day either morning or afternoon, please do so; don't assume if you can't stay all day you can't help. And even if you don't know many species - We still need your eyes to help us locate the birds; someone in every group will be able to identify them. If you cannot attend the count, then count the birds at your feeder, this will be a big help to us. If you have any questions or special problems please call Bill Williams (229-0098) or Susan Sturm (229-1906) and they will be glad to help you. Plan on dressing for cold weather, pray for dry weather (but be prepared in case we have a cold, wet, sloppy day that only Williamsburg can produce), and bring whatever food and drink it will take to get you through the day's activities. The tally will be held at 6:00 P.M. at Ruth Beck's home - 123 Ferncliff Drive. We will be expecting a big turn-out; a Christmas count can be a very enjoyable, educational and rewarding experience. There is a fee of \$1.50 if you would like to be listed in the American Birds journal as a participant of the Audubon Christmas count.

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate of officers to be voted on at our December meeting:

President - Bill Williams
Vice President - Ruth Beck
Secretary - Bill Sheehan
Treasurer - Billie Jones
Newsletter editor - Susan Sturm

The November field trip to Hog Island proved to be a tremendous success. In fact it would be difficult to say what the highlight of the day was. The ducks and geese put on spectacular aerial shows; great numbers of Canada Geese were observed and Gary Miller's party spotted a Snow Goose. In addition to the swans, black ducks, pintails, mallards, and green-winged teal observed, a most unusually high number of hooded mergansers were seen at close range by the group. In the wooded area while watching brown-headed nuthatches, a bald eagle was spotted as it perched on a snag at a fairly reasonable distance for observation. If the day had any drawbacks it was the great number of exceedingly hungry mosquitoes. But after liberal quantities of repellent were sprayed on each birder, even the mosquitoes weren't much of a problem. And Ruth Beck, our trip leader, even managed to save the best for last. Just before we headed back for our cars she spotted four white-fronted geese sitting on the James River with a flock of Canadas.