



November 1978

THE WILLIAMSBURG FLIER

The November meeting of the Williamsburg Bird Club will be held Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 P.M. in Millington Hall. We will not have a speaker this month; instead we will have a film presentation for our program.

Our next field trip will be Saturday, Nov. 18 to Craney Island. Our last field trip to Lake Matoaka almost had more bird-watchers than birds. But we did see quite a number of migrating robins.

Ruth Beck and Dr. Mitchell Byrd attended the Raptor Research conference in Pennsylvania last weekend. We are all proud of Dr. Byrd; he was awarded the Conservationist of the Year award by the Virginia Wildlife Federation.

The nets have been closed at Kiptopeke and another banding season has come to a close. At his hawk banding station at Fisherman Island, Dr. Byrd caught and banded 4 peregrine falcons, more than 30 Coopers hawks, and several red-tailed and broad-winged hawks. On Oct. 29 an immature golden eagle was observed flying over the area. In some 30 hours of observation on the Eastern Shore Bill Williams counted some 2000 birds of prey. If you did not get an opportunity to get over to the Eastern Shore, don't despair - there's always next fall.

Betty Williams reports she had a solitary vireo at her backyard birdbath Oct. 22. And Bill Sheehan had 3 turkeys at Cheatham last week. For those of you who might be a bit more adventurous, a lesser black-backed gull seems to have taken up residence on the Ches. Bay Tunnel islands. Several of our club members have seen this bird and added it to their life lists. On Oct. 29, Bill Williams, his Mom, and Genev Gilley had a chance to photograph the gull. We will all eagerly await Bill's slides and get a chance to judge his photographic techniques.

Our field trip leader, Brian Taber, has been on a rather extended field trip of his own. He has just returned from a vacation to the Fla. Everglades where he got to see sandhill cranes, purple gallinules, and anhingas to name a few.

Our bird club has donated two books to the Williamsburg library; one was A Field Guide to North American Bird Clubs, and the other was A Field Guide to the Birds of California.

There will be a V.S.O. sponsored field trip to Back Bay and Craney Island Dec. 2-3, 1978. Trip headquarters will be Howard Johnson Hotel (428-7220) if you would like to stay overnight. If you are interested in only a day trip, assemble at 7:00 a.m. in the hotel parking lot for the trip to Back Bay, or meet Sunday at 8:30 at the Craney Island gate.

Participants from our club to the V.S.O. annual list included Bill Williams, Betty Williams, Dorothy Mitchell and Mike Mitchell.

Ruth Beck would like to announce that the nets have been taken down at the pop lab and she will not be doing any more banding until next spring. Also, she and Roy Trow are looking for volunteers to help with cleaning out purple martin nest boxes.

Purple finches were observed at Kiptopeke Oct. 21; and even earlier in the month at Charlottesville. With the return of the winter finches we begin to start thinking about feeding the birds once again. Next month we plan to feature an article about feeders and types of food, but in the meantime don't forget about the importance of keeping a birdbath in the yard to attract birds. Julie Hotchkiss had numerous warblers in her yard this fall; they were attracted to a sprinkler in the backyard. Even in the bitter cold birds will drink from your birdbath.

We hope you have already set aside Sunday, Dec. 17 to help out with the second annual Williamsburg Christmas count. Any amount of time you can help will be of great help. And if you can the day before will ~~be~~ be the date of the Hampton Road's bird count, and since many of their club members help us, maybe we could give them a helping hand.



"If they really like birds so much,
why don't they bring birdseed?"