

WILLIAMSBURG BIRD CLUB NOTES
January 11, 1978

The January meeting of the Williamsburg Bird Club will be held in Room 117 of Millington Hall at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 18.

Our program will be presented by Bill Akers, a former graduate of William and Mary. Bill received his Masters degree after completing a study of the least tern in Virginia. He will be speaking to us about the family Laridae (gulls and terns).

At our last meeting we elected the slate of officers presented for nomination in the December Newsletter. Now that the business of electing officers has been accomplished, we need to establish our policy of paying dues in order that our club function more smoothly. Two alternatives were discussed at the December meeting. The first was that dues would be \$5 per year per member with provision for a \$3 fee for students. The second alternative was that we become affiliated with the National Audubon Society, in which case dues would be \$15. With this option Audubon would send \$5 per member back to the club and each member would receive Audubon magazine. Please think about these two possibilities and express your views at the next meeting.

We also need to think about a logo for our club. What bird do you think would make a good symbol for the Williamsburg Bird Club?

At the present we have three committees within the club which need members. These committees are blue birds, purple martins, and field trips. The first two need people who would enjoy building houses, setting them up, maintaining them, keeping records of nesting success, assisting with banding young birds, or any phase thereof. The third committee needs individuals who would like to plan and lead club field trips. If any or all of these committees appeal to you, plan on signing up and getting involved at the January meeting.

The first annual Williamsburg Christmas Count was held Sunday, December 18, 1977. Although our spirits were not dampened, unfortunately everything else was. But in spite of the exceedingly rainy weather we did manage to count 100 species of birds. Areas covered included Hog Island, Camp Peary, Cheatham Annex, the Colonial Parkway, Jamestown Island, and Colonial Williamsburg and surrounding developments. Considering the weather, we did have an excellent tally, and special thanks go to our club members and members of the Hampton Roads Bird Club, who braved the weather and kept the day from becoming anything but a total disaster. Special thanks also go to Ruth and Sherwin Beck for their hospitality and for a dry place to compute the tally. And, if we counted 100 species on a miserable day - just think what we can do next year on a pretty day.