



THE WILLIAMSBURG FLIER

The May meeting of the Williamsburg Bird Club will be held Wednesday, May 17, at 7:30 P.M. in Millington Hall. Our speaker for the month will be Roy Trow who will give a program on the family Hirundinidae (swallows). Roy is of course a member of our club and is probably better known in the community as "Mr. Purple Martin". He is also the enthusiastic chairman of the club's purple martin committee and will no doubt spend the greater part of the evening telling us all about martins.

Our scheduled April field trip to Grandview Beach unfortunately did not materialize because the north-easter earlier that week pretty much wiped out the area. Undaunted, Brian led the group to Newport News City Park for what turned out to be a delightful morning of birding. The weather was perfect and the birds cooperated nicely. The highlights for the day were the red-eyed and yellow-throated vireos, the various spring warblers, and the aerial antics of the great blue herons. Although we were thwarted this time, Brian will be scheduling another trip to Grandview in the not too distant future.

Our field trip for next month will take place Sunday, May 28, and will be a visit to Ruth Beck's bird-banding station at William and Mary's population laboratory. For those of you who do not know where the pop.lab is, meet as usual at the Williamsburg Information Center at 6:30 a.m. and someone will meet you and direct you to the banding station. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to observe banding procedures and to study birds "in the hand".

For those of you who do not know much about the Virginia Society of Ornithology and would like to get some first-hand information, you will have an excellent opportunity the weekend of May 19-21. The V.S.O. is of course our state birding organization and this year's annual meeting is being held at William and Mary. Briefly, the schedule of events is as follows:

Friday, 19 May

4:00 - 9:00 P.M. Registration in Millington Hall lobby.

Saturday, 20 May

6:45 A.M. Field trips to the following localities:

- 1) William and Mary Pop. Lab
- 2) Colonial Parkway
- 3) Newport News City Park
- 4) Hog Island
- 5) Grandview

Saturday, 20 May contd.

- 2:00 - 5:00 P.M. Scientific papers session in Millington Hall auditorium.
- 6:00 P.M. Hospitality hour in the William and Mary commons.
- 7:00 P.M. Annual dinner in the William and Mary commons.
- 8:30 P.M. The featured speaker, Dr. Olin S. Pettingill, who will narrate his film, "Another Penguin Summer", in the William and Mary commons.

Sunday, 21 May

- 6:45 A.M. Field trips to the same areas as Saturday with the addition of Craney Island landfill.

Costs are as follows per person:

Registration	\$3.50
Hospitality hour	3.50
Annual Dinner	8.50

Make checks payable to V.S.O. Meeting Fund (and it would be helpful to include a note explaining exactly what the check is for) and mail to:

Mrs. Betty Foster
1632 Inspiration Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23235

The deadline is May 15 and there will be no refunds for cancellations after that date.

The executive committee has drawn up a constitution and by-laws for our club. Copies will be available at the May meeting and members will vote on it at the June meeting.

Since most folks take their vacations in the latter part of the summer, there will be no July or August bird club meetings. However, there will still be organized field trips and you will receive newsletters for those two months.

Do you have birds nesting in your back yards or in your immediate vicinity? If so, and if you'd like the information to be recorded, Bill Williams has North American Nest Record cards available. These cards are easy to complete and everybody can contribute information.

Don't forget the Hampton Roads Bird Count, Saturday, May 13. The group will assemble in front of the Family Fish House at Sinclair Circle on Mercury Blvd. at 6:00 A.M. This count is always an enjoyable experience and all of the Hampton birders are very enthusiastic and eager to help new birders.

We are in the middle of what is probably the most exciting birding time of the year. If you do not have an opportunity to participate in any of the organized birding activities, please try to at least get out in your yard or neighborhood and spend a little time bird-watching. You can't help but be generously rewarded for your efforts. And don't forget to keep a list and bring it to the next meeting.