



THE WILLIAMSBURG FLIER
May, 1979

NEW DATES FOR MONTHLY MEETING AND SCHEDULED FIELD TRIP THIS MONTH! PLEASE NOTE!

The May meeting of the Williamsburg Bird Club will be held Wednesday, May 23, at 7:30 P.M. in Millington Hall. Our program for this month will be presented by Dick Peake and will be a program on "Bird Inspired Poetry". Dick is a professor in the English department of Clinch Valley College in Wise County. He is a very active birder throughout the state and is a past president of the V.S.O.

Our field trip for this month will be to Grandview Beach in Hampton, and the date of this has been moved back to Saturday, May 26. Please assemble by 7:00 A.M. in the Information Center parking lot. Brian moved the date back a week in order that the field trip not conflict with the V.S.O. annual meeting in Lynchburg, and he also felt that the birding might be a bit better at the latter date. Some of the special species to expect at Grandview include least bittern, sharp-tailed and seaside sparrows, piping plovers, and a nesting colony of least terns. This is one of the most exciting birding areas in the state, and we hope as many as possible will be able to come.

The third annual Williamsburg spring count was held May 6. We had a good turnout of birders and the weather couldn't have been better. Our total for the day was approximately 150 species; a listing of species and individuals will appear in the next newsletter. Many of the resident and migrant warblers were not back in time for the count, but a day or two later winds from the south began bringing them into the area. One surprise for the day was a brown creeper that Ruth Beck and Julie Hotchkiss found still lingering in this area. Bill Williams and Bill Sheehan found almost more pheasants and turkeys at Cheatham than they could handle,

Roy Trow, who is also known as Mr. Purple Martin, has moved with his family to Orange, Va. He will certainly be missed by all of us. Sam Hart will be taking over as chairman of our purple martin committee. If you have any time you could donate to helping, Sam would certainly appreciate it.

Barbara Ema and Alice Springe have a new display set up on the top floor of Millington. Please try to take time to visit the new display they have worked so hard on; the topic is owls. And speaking of owls, Tom Armour had an unusual experience while fishing recently. As he was reeling in a catch, a barred owl tried to snatch the fish, then realized there was a man attached to the other end of the line. Then Tom tossed the freed fish up on shore, and the owl swooped down and flew away with his catch. This is certainly a different version of "the big one that got away".

Paula Pence still reports having a sharp-shinned hawk in her yard. This bird has been in her yard all winter and seems rather reluctant to leave. It is last known to have fed on a purple martin.