



THE WILLIAMSBURG FLYER
APRIL 1989

NEXT MEETING APRIL 19TH
7:30 PM. MILLINGTON HALL, ROOM 117
"THE NATURE OF AUSTRALIA"
JAMIE K. DOYLE

FIELD TRIPS

The March field trip, originally planned as a Bluebird outing, was redesigned as a Hog Island Trip. Although the weather was beautiful, only Carolyn Lowe and myself made it out for the field trip. The strong winds kept the number of birds seen low, but we did get excellent looks at the birds we saw. We watched the active Great Blue Heron colony through a scope for over 20 minutes.

The April field trip will be held on Saturday April 22. We will meet at the Colonial Williamsburg Information Center at 7:30 AM. From there we will go to local spots to see the earlier Spring migrants and to hear and relearn the songs that we haven't heard since last Spring. Birds that we are likely to see include Yellow-throated, and Prothonotary Warblers, Northern Parula, Wood Thrush, and Yellow-throated Vireos. If weather conditions are favorable, many migrants begin arriving between the 20th and 25th of April so almost anything can be expected.

Also, don't forget the Annual Spring Count which is being held this year on May 7th. More details will be given at the April meeting.

If you plan to attend the field trips or would like more information about them, please call 220-5763.

Craig Tumer- Field Trip Chairman

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The arrival of birds in the Spring and their disappearance at the end of the breeding season is one of the most familiar aspects

of North American bird biology. Seasonal migration enables birds to avoid the stresses of unfavorable climates and to exploit food supplies that are available for only limited periods each year. Many familiar species can breed at high latitudes during the short but food rich Arctic summer, and then fly south to the more favorable climates of the southern U.S., Central America, and South America. Preparation for migration is similar to our preparation for the annual vacation; it involves both physiological and behavioral changes. Birds prepare physiologically through the accumulation of fat to provide fuel for prolonged flight. It is not uncommon for passerines to lose one-fourth to one-half of their body weight during over water migration. We humans, however, usually gain weight during our trip and strive to shed the extra weight when we return home. Behavioral changes are common in nighttime migrants, which alter their activity rhythms during darkness. Most long distance migrants, especially smaller birds, fly at night: they may travel continuously or land daily around sunrise to rest and forage. Migrants that move only fairly short distances within our region usually travel during the day, maybe only a few hours of morning in migration. Swallows and swifts, aerial foragers, do not stop, but feed in flight during migration. Migration in North America is essentially north-south along four principle routes or "flyways"; Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic. We are along the Atlantic Flyway. So this Spring listen more intensely as you go out early morning and at night for the sounds of birds migrating. Thrushes and warblers are easily heard at night.

Spring is an exciting time as far as birds and birders go. Spring makes all things new again. We have some interesting events coming up in April, May, and June. The VSO Annual Meeting will be at Mountain Lake Hotel on May 12-14, 1989. This grand old hotel was recently featured in the movie "Dirty Dancing". The meeting promises to be a top of the world event. For information on rates, meals, as well as making reservations call or write the Mountain Lake Hotel, Mountain Lake, Virginia 24136. Phone 1-800-346-334. Remember to mention you will be attending the VSO Annual Meeting to take advantage of a package they are providing. Please make you reservations as soon as possible, but no later than April 17th, 1989. The theme of the meeting is "Ridgecrest to Rainforest". The program will focus on the ornithology of Mountain Lake, major projects important to Virginia's birdlife, and a look at what is happening to the wintering grounds of Virginia's birds-the tropical rainforest.

There will be field trips scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. Come preparedd for the sight and sounds of mountain birding at its best. Bring warm clothes to ward off cool temperatures and shoes to cope with heavy dew. Most of the field trip leaders are also excellent botanists and will show you many of the special Mountain Lake wildflowers. This is a good opportunity for a relaxing weekend at a truly resort hotel and to enjoy spring mountain birding.

Enclosed you will find a registration form for the VSO Annual Meeting. Also, don't forget to call the hotel for reservations.

In May we have the Annual Spring Count and perhaps a picnic to bring on summer.

Keep Bill Sheehan posted of all spring arrivals you see and hear. Early bird record and rarities are kept in the club's master record list. Bill has been the Records Compiler since the club's founding.

Until Next Month- GOOD BIRDING!

Ruth Beck

MAYMONT FOUNDATION SPONSORS ENVIRONMENTAL SERIES

SCHEDULE-

For more information:
Cathy Viverette
Environmental Program Specialist
(804) 358-7166

Wednesday, April 19th 7:30 PM

Paul R. Erlich

"Extinction...What's Happening and Why Should We Care?"

Virginia Commonwealth University

School of Business Auditorium

1015 Floyd Avenue

Thursday, April 20th 7:30 PM

Stephen H. Schneider

"The Greenhouse Century: Coping with Global Warming"

same location

Friday, April 21st 7:30 PM

Charles E. Roth

"The Wonders of Nature and The Art of Seeing"

Assembly Hall Maymont, 1700 Hampton St.

Saturday, April 22nd 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

Charles E. Roth

"Honing the Art of Seeing"

same location

Sunday, April 23 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

"NatureFest--Think Globally...Act Locally"

same location



VIRGINIA'S ENDANGERED SPECIES

symposium and workshop

APRIL 28 & 29, 1989

Donaldson Brown Education Center

Virginia Polytechnic Institute

and State University

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the

Virginia Department of Conservation and Historic Resources are sponsoring this symposium in order to compile and present the most current information on the status and distribution of Virginia's rare and endangered species. Of special topic will be Virginia's plants, mollusks, arthropods, fishes, reptiles & amphibians, birds, mammals, and trends in land use. Dr. Mitchell Byrd of the College of William and Mary will present the aspects involving bird conservation. For more information contact
VIRGINIA ENDANGERED SPECIES SYMPOSIUM
C/O VIRGINIA GAME DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 1104
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23230-1104

deadline for registration is
APRIL 13TH

BIRD SIGHTINGS

On March 30TH William and Mary Ornithology TAs Jamie Doyle and Craig Tumer, with guest birders Brian Patteson and Steve Rottenborn, led their class to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Islands. Through rain drop covered windows and during brief intervals when the torrential rains stopped, they spotted many species of early migrants and winter stand-bys. Spring migrants included 2 Eastern Phoebe's, Palm, Prairie, Common Yellow Throat, and Yellow Throated Warblers, and a Savannah Sparrow. While some of the wintering birds were still in cold weather garb, others were already in breeding plumage. Other sightings included: 3 Harlequin Ducks, Surf Scotters, Gannets, Double-Crested and Great Cormorants, Ruddy Turnstones, Purple Sandpipers, Ospreys, Common Loons, Buffleheads, and Horned Grebes.

BLUE BIRDS

Get those bluebird boxes located, cleaned, and repaired. Craig Tumer and Jamie Doyle located nine boxes at The Williamsburg Country club and found them all clean and in good repair. Although the boxes were not occupied, bluebirds were seen in the area. Keep Joe Doyle (220-3498) informed as to the status of your bluebird trails. Send me any reports of nesting successes, problems, special concerns, and interesting observations. Let us spread the "bluebird happiness" around the club.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 28TH.

Thank You Carolyn Lowe for your contribution on the Maymont events ! As for the rest of you-- Hello ! Are you out there ? Enough said.....



Jamie H. Doyle

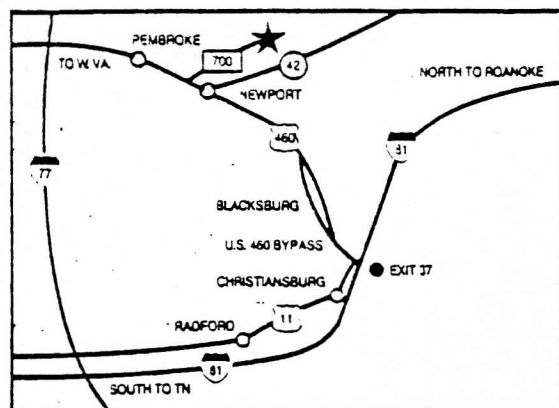
Biology Department
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, VA 23185

253-4240 (Dept.)
220-6611 (Home)

Traveling to MOUNTAIN LAKE...

...by car: Mountain Lake is easily accessible from I-81 and I-77. (see map)

...by plane: Commercial airports in Roanoke, VA and Bluefield, West VA, serviced by Piedmont and Eastern Airlines. Private airport at Blacksburg, VA.



Transportation is provided to the Hotel from airport or bus station if advised prior to time of arrival for a nominal fee.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **DRESS**—Normal summer clothing. Ladies will find a light wrap or coat useful in the morning and late evening.
- Organized daytime and evening activities are available from June 1 through Labor Day.
- Baby beds and baby-sitting service available with advance notice.
- **PET POLICY**—We are sorry, but we no longer allow pets in any of the accommodations or on the premises. Reservations of guests who bring pets will not be honored. Boarding facilities are available in Blacksburg.

For reservations—write or call Mountain Lake, Mountain Lake, Virginia, 24136
703/626-7121 or 1-800/346-3334

I / we would like to Register for the VSO annual Meeting at Mountain Lake Hotel.

May 12-14, 1989

Number of persons _____
Registration fee each adult \$15.00
Total Amount Remitted _____

Names _____

*Pick up Registration
Materials when you arrive*

Send registration forms to:

Jerry W. Via
Dept. of Biology
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

by May 5, 1989