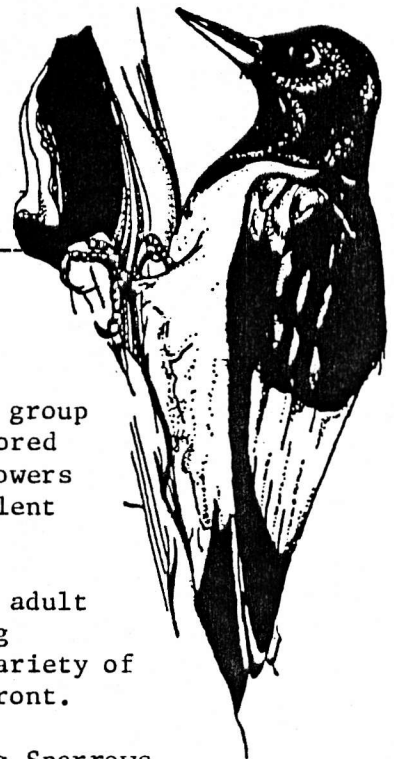


The Williamsburg Flyers



SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP REPORT:

On September 23rd, the second day of Autumn, the field trip group of Tom Armour, Joy Archer, Julie Hotchkiss, and Brian Taber explored Hog Island in Surrey County. The warm weather turned to cool showers by 11 AM and cut the trip a bit short, but not before some excellent birds were seen.

Black Terns and Laughing Gulls accompanied the ferry and an adult Bald Eagle was seen from the ferry as it perched, then flew along Jamestown Island. At Hog Island, the trees were filled with a variety of birds, apparently not willing to fly into the approaching cold front. Among them were Blue Grosbeaks, Bobolinks, Indigo Buntings, Palm Warblers, Pine Warblers, Yellow Warblers, Yellowthroats, Chipping Sparrows and Cardinals.

In the impoundments there were Mallards, Green-winged Teal, dozens of Snowy Egrets, a few Tri-colored Herons, Osprey, Lesser Yellowlegs, Western Sandpipers, and Least Sandpipers. Three species of terns, Forster's, Caspian, and Royal were huddled together in the fields near the ponds. An unusual migrant, a Connecticut Warbler, was clearly seen in the low bushes toward the middle of the refuge, between the impoundments.

The Lesser Golden-Plovers which have been at Hog Island off and on for weeks were not observed, but eight were seen there on September 27th.

Additional bird sightings in late September on the Eastern Shore included: Lark Sparrow, Eared Grebe at Back Bay, Black-legged Kittiwake and Clay Colored Sparrow on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and Say's Phoebe at the southern tip of the Eastern Shore.

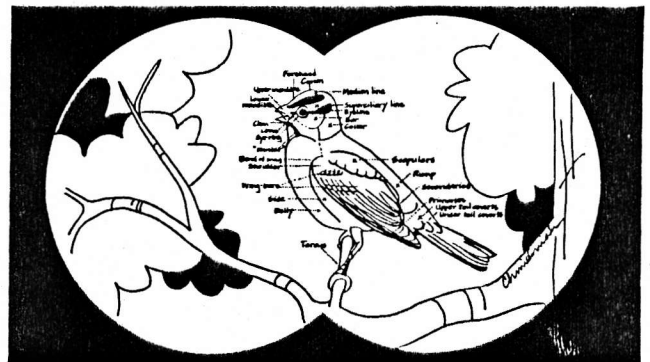
Brian Taber

Paul Saunier and Hawk Watching:

On September 20th members of the Williamsburg Bird Club were treated to a program on "Hawk Watching; A Layman's Perspective." Our guest speaker was Paul Saunier from the Charlottesville area. Paul, a long time hawk watcher and well respected conservationist, shared his insights, stories, and slides with us. We hope that all of those at the meeting will join us with their newly found knowledge of the October 21st field trip for hawk watching on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Bring your own field guides!

When the Williamsburg Bird Club meets on the 18th all members in attendance will have the opportunity to learn more about feeding our feathered friends throughout the coming season. What type of seeds attract a certain species of bird? How should you present your seed? etc. etc. Members will also have the chance to break up into smaller groups and, with the aid of volunteer instructors, bone up on their field identification marks. Study skins will be available to represent the species that may commonly visit your feeders this Winter. Please join us for a fun and educational evening.



"It looks like that bird from the front of the field guide!"

Presidents' Comments

The crisp fall mornings are here and the frost is almost on the pumpkins. We all are grateful to have been spared the devastation of hurricane Hugo and it is refreshing to have at least two days in a row with no rain.

The autumn also brings some exciting and important activities for the Bird Club.

The Annual Bird Seed Sale is here. Pre-paid ordering deadline is October 21st and the pick-up date is November 11th 8:00am - 12 noon at Colony Square Shopping Center. If you have any questions please call Shirley Raynes at 229-8975, or Fred Blystone at 229-4346.

November also brings the election of new officers and club representatives. We need your help and input. If you are called to be an officer or a committee chairman please say yes!

The annual Audubon Christmas Count will be in December. Date will follow in next letter.

Not off the press: Dec. 17th 7Am-5pm

HARRIER

BUTEOS

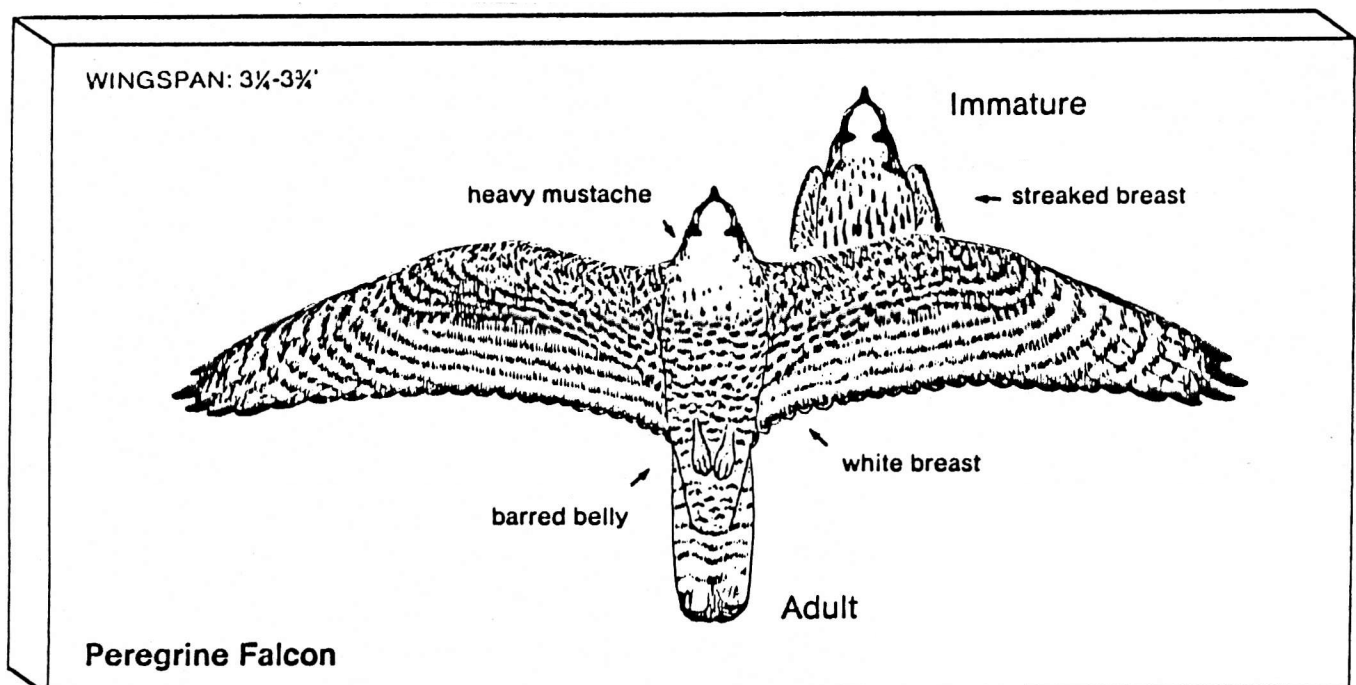
ACCIPITERS

Free Raptor I.D. guide included in your trip

Hawk Watching on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

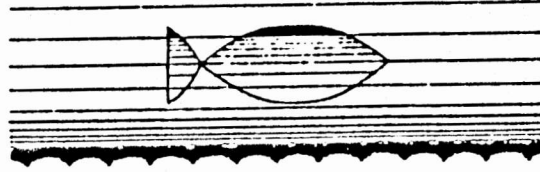
October 21st we will be going to a hawk-watching station of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. This field trip is the highlight of the field trips offered. So, come. Bring comfortable walking shoes, and dress for field (slacks, jacket etc.) Bring lunch and beverage. We will meet at the Williamsburg Information Center at 7:30am, and return after 3:00pm. There is a \$9.00 toll for the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel each way, so we will try to car pool to keep cost down

FALCONS



The adult peregrine is blue on the back, the immature is dark brown. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Prairie Falcon, Gyrfalcon

Appeal Made to Strengthen Virginia Preservation Act



CBF NEWS, September 1989

Once hailed as the hallmark of Virginia's Bay initiatives, the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act has been greatly compromised with the adoption of the final criteria. The law was designed to limit the impact of land use and development in eastern Virginia on the Bay's water quality. Exploding population growth in this area of Virginia—and in the rest of the Bay watershed—has focused attention on land use issues.

On June 28, 1989, the Local Assistance Board adopted its final criteria for implementing the Preservation Act. CBF believes that the regulations are much weaker and less effective than the criteria originally proposed. CBF Virginia Executive Director Joseph H. Maroon explains that a number of key provisions were deleted or deferred to existing programs, while still other regulations were significantly changed.

Over the past year, a vigorous public hearing and comment process on the Preservation Act's regulations showed overwhelming public support for stringent, specific criteria. In fact, written comments received by the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board (the regulating and enforcement body of the Act) favored strengthening the criteria by a margin of 9 to 1. Yet just the opposite has occurred.

Of great concern is the deletion of all septic tank requirements. The effluent from septic systems has been identified as a significant contributor to the Bay's problems. Yet, the Board declined to address the issue, giving responsibility, instead, to the State Health Department.

"Alarming," Maroon said, "the Health Department has testified that its

current septic tank regulations are inadequate to protect ground and surface water supplies fully. The failure of the Board to exercise its authority in this area is a great disappointment."

While the Board adopted criteria requiring a 100-foot buffer area between development and tidal shorelines and wetlands, the language was amended to include several provisions which allow the buffer to be reduced to as little as 50 feet, leaving room for different interpretations.

Nontidal wetlands protection also suffered a setback in the final criteria of the Act. Although the Chesapeake Bay Agree-

ment calls for "no net loss" of wetlands, measures for stemming the loss of nontidal wetlands were deleted from the Preservation Act.

In addition, the number of exemptions permitted under the Preservation Act was increased significantly, while many guidelines for development lack sufficient detail. No provisions were made to curtail and control the land rush occurring in the interim period.

CBF contends that the changes made to the regulations are so profound as to require an additional public hearing and a request for a hearing has been made to Governor Gerald L. Baliles. State regulatory process law provides the Governor with the power to suspend the regulatory process in order to allow for additional public comment when changes in regulations are "substantial."

CBF determined that the final criteria adopted by the Board contain approximately 50 percent new language that had not been circulated for public comment.

The remaining regulations cover stormwater management criteria, local mapping of natural resources, agricultural and development buffers, and water-dependent facilities. Perhaps most important, the criteria require local governments to begin to address the impact of land use and development on water quality by June 28, 1990. Strong local involvement will be a key to determining the long-term effectiveness of the Board's final criteria.

CBF will continue to work toward strengthening the regulations of the Preservation Act. The Foundation is also assisting citizens to become involved in the development of their own local plans. If you are interested in more information on how you can help, call Russ Baxter in CBF's Virginia office at (804) 780-1392.

For your information!