



THE WILLIAMSBURG FLYER
JUNE 1989

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 20TH
7:30 PM MILLINGTON HALL
ROOM 117

FIELD TRIP

JUNE 10TH

GRANDVIEW BEACH- Willets, Piping Plovers, Least Terns, and Black Skimmer are all known to be raising young on the northern end of Grandview Beach this year. Those interested in visiting the beach and aiding in the banding of the young Least Terns, please meet Ruth Beck at the Colonial Williamsburg Information Center (right side as you face it) at 7:30 AM. Be prepared to protect yourself against the sun and biting flies and to enjoy watching the young of the season.

SPRING COUNT

Our 12th Annual Spring Bird Count was a great success. A new record of 166 species, which surpassed the previous high of 162, was set thanks to the efforts of many helpers on May 7th. People were in the field from 5 AM to 7 PM throughout the 15 mile diameter count circle. Among the hard-working counters were Bill Sheehan, Bill Snyder, Bettye Fields, Dot Silsby, Joan Somerville, Eileen Popp, Bill Williams, Jamie Doyle, Craig Turner, Bob Cross, Rich Goll, Cindy Carlson, Brian Patteson, Fenton Day, Gary Driscoll, Harding Polk, Tom Armour, Joe Doyle, Ruth Beck, Fred Blystone, and Brian Taber.

Highlights are as follows:

1st timers: Ring-necked Duck
Ruddy Turnstone
Willow Flycatcher

2nd timers: White Pelican ('82)
Horned Lark ('83)
White-crowned Sparrow ('78)
Cliff Swallow ('86)

selected new highlights: Bald Eagle 11
 Greater Black-Backed Gulls 42
 Forester's Tern 116
 Great Crested Flycatcher 100

Our records show an interesting increase in the number of House Finches recorded since 1978: 0, 1, 1, 2, 2, 4, 14, 34, 17, 38, 36, 103.

1st time failure: Wild Turkey

Birds seen in the count area during the count week, but not on count day included Glossy Ibis, Swainson's Thrush, and Pectoral Sandpiper. On the following day, two other birds that were missed appeared in the evening near Jamestown Road, Magnolia Warbler and Common Nighthawk.

It was evident by May 1st that the count would be a good one, as many birds moved into our area during the week. A storm the day before the count dropped temperatures rapidly overnight and counters awoke to 45 degrees and strong winds. The day warmed to the 60's by afternoon, then fell to the 40's again at night. Congratulations and thank you to the many volunteers who made the event an exciting and rewarding day.

BLUEBIRD UPDATE

Craig Tumer and Jamie Doyle have been monitoring the Eastern Bluebird next boxes at the Williamsburg Country Club. All ten of the boxes were found to be clean and in good condition in March of this year. Boxes were checked on April 26th and again on May 18th. The findings on these dates were as follows:

box number	4-26	5-18
1	4 eggs	5 young
2	4 eggs	4 eggs
3	5 eggs	3 young, 1 failed egg
4	0	0
5	3 eggs	4 young
6	5 eggs	1 abandoned egg, nest cleaned
7	5 eggs	2 young, three failed eggs
8	1 egg, 1 destroyed egg	3 eggs
9	5 eggs	5 young
10	5 eggs	5 young

Thanks to everyone who made suggestions for my Leadership America internship this summer. From July 17th-August 11th I will be working as a research assistant to Dr. Paul Ehrlich at Rocky Mountain Biological Station in Crested Butte, Colorado. My work will focus on the community structure that exists as a result of sapwell drilling by Red-naped Sapsuckers. As well as the sapsuckers, the community is known to include various species of hummingbirds, warblers, and chipmunks. Perhaps there is a program to be had for the fall?

Jamie Doyle

THE MOTHBALL FLEET PEREGRINES

Dr. Mitchell Byrd of the College of William and Mary reports a promising year for the pair of Peregrine Falcons that are nesting on one of the ships of the Mothball Fleet next to the Jamestown Ferry Dock. Although five young (an unusually large clutch size) hatched this year, one bird soon died. Because last year's young of the same pair all died of *Trichomonas*, it was felt that survivorship possibilities for these birds would be increased if they were separated. Two of the young were fostered off to a pair of Peregrines on the Eastern Shore that had produced four failed eggs. Soon after the stork (disguised as Dr. Byrd) delivered the relocated young, their foster parents began to feed them. Both pairs and the four young birds seem to be healthy and doing well.

Deadline for the August newsletter is July 31st.
Please send all information to Ruth Beck Biology Department
College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
or call her at 229-3837.

HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER !--

Ruth & Jamie

