



---

THE WILLIAMSBURG FLYER  
MARCH 1989

---

NEXT MEETING  
MARCH 15TH 7:30PM  
MILLINGTON 117  
THE EASTERN BLUEBIRD

---

---

FIELD TRIPS

The February field trip was a real hoot! REALLY!! Approximately twenty people took advantage of the unusually balmy night to search for owls. Although the wind was blowing a little too strongly for really great success, we did hear at least three Eastern Screech Owls on Treasure Island Road, three to four American Woodcocks at the Williamsburg Airport and several Barred Owls at Jolly Pond. The climax of the evening occurred when one of the Barred Owls landed in a tree above the cars for everyone to see.

Our field trip for March will be held on Saturday the 18th. We will meet at 8:00AM in the usual place (Colonial Williamsburg Information Center, right side.) From there we will check out local Bluebird trails and do any maintenance that may still need to be done. We plan to do some birding along the way.

On April 1 (no fooling!) we will have another field trip. This time we will be going to Grandview Beach in Hampton. We will meet at 8:00AM...the usual place. From there we will go to Grandview to do some birding and also to help Ruth Beck post signs around the area where Least Terns will be nesting in the Spring. Although the terns will not be back by the first of April, we should see plenty of other birds such as various shorebirds, waterfowl, herons, gulls and possibly a Brown Pelican or two. So, plan to be on at least one (if not both) of these field trips. Each should be a lot of fun!

Craig Turner  
Field Trip Chairman

---



## President's Comments

February brought over 25 inches of snow, a blizzard and many calls about birds at feeders within the area. Birds increase their visits to feeders in harsh weather, particularly after snowfall and icestorms that make natural food inaccessible. Feeding backyard birds began in earnest in the 1950's. Today more than one-half billion dollars, one in three North American households, makes available an average of 60 lbs of supplemental seed each year. Feeding may pull many birds through extreme winters. However, once you begin a feeding program you should continue until normal food supply is available.

Beef suet brings many species of birds to feeding stations. Birds visiting suet stations in this area include: woodpeckers, mockingbirds, nuthatches, chickadees, titmice, wrens, orioles, warblers, grackles and starlings. Keep the suet out until spring. Remove the suet as spring advances as sun-warmed suet mats feathers, which can result in reduced insulation and water proofing, inflamed or infected follicles and loss of facial feathers. The suet should store well in your freezer over the summer months and can be used in the fall when the weather is generally cool.

Many thanks to Craig Tumor for a fantastic field trip. A total of 29 participants ventured out into the dark, windy unknown to "hoot up" the three most common species of owl in our area. The Barred owls of Jolly Pond fame were the most cooperative and were observed by all. The Screech owls performed through their vocalizaing efforts, however, the Great Horned Owl was a no show.

A reminder that National Wildlife Week, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, is 19-25 March 1989. The theme this year is "Predators." A feature is the show "Conserving America: Comparisons of Wildlife" on PBS, March 22, 1989, check your local listings. For information, instructional material including posters, etc., write National Wildlife Federation; 1412 16th Street, S.W.; Washington, D.C., 20036-2266-.

I recently read that a pair of Lesser Scaup painted by Nebraska artist Neal R. Anderson has been selected as the design for the 1989/90 Federal Duck Stamp. There were 681 enteries in the 1988 contest sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Coming up in March is the annual announcement of the Williamsburg Bird Club Grant. The Williamsburg Bird Club provides a grant of \$500.00 to graduate or undergraduate students of the College of William and Mary in support of

research in ornithology. Innovative projects relevant to migration, ecology, behavior, population monitoring, and conservation will be favored. Applicants should send a resume and short proposal including the location of study site, its history and significance, and the background of the applicant/organization involved and a budget.

March also brings bluebird and purple martin committee functions. We are still looking for a purple martin committee chairman. We have 6 volunteers (age 9-12) from a local school, Jamestown Academy, who are eager to assist and monitor purple martin populations. If you are interested in helping out please call Ruth Beck at 253-4284. All information and on site training will be provided.

Until next time - good birding!

Ruth Beck  
President



---

#### EAGLES

The mid-winter bald eagle count was completed in January with the highest number of birds seen since the inception of the survey eight years ago. Results of the recent survey are as follows:

	Eagles Observed
Rappahannock River	101
James River	119
York, Pamunkey, Mattaponi Rivers	14
Potomac River	77
	311

The count continues to be useful in establishing population trends and in the identification of concentration areas. Some negotiations are now ongoing regarding the acquisition of one of these areas by appropriate agencies.

Dr. Mitchell Byrd

The Williamsburg Bird Club recently received a letter from the Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy that expresses their appreciation for our donation of \$100 for the Powell Creek Eagle Project. George H. Fenwick, Virginia Director, noted that the Virginia Chapter's annual meeting will be held in Williamsburg (6-7 May, at the Fort Magruder Inn), and he hopes that bird club members who are also Nature Conservancy members will attend.

---

WILLIAMSBURG BIRD CLUB FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE 1989

all trips will start at the right side of the Colonial  
Information Center unless otherwise stated. Times TBA.



MARCH 18 LOCAL BLUEBIRD TRAILS

APRIL 1 GRANDVIEW BEACH

APRIL 15 LOCAL TRIP FOR EARLY MIGRANTS

MAY 7 WILLIAMSBURG SPRING COUNT

MAY 12-14 ANNUAL VSO MEETING- MOUNTAIN LAKE

JUNE 24 HAMPTON ROADS TUNNEL ISLAND TERN COLONY

AUGUST 19 CRANEY ISLAND

SEPTEMBER 8-10 VSO TO CHINCOTEAGUE

RTIN HOUSE WINTERIZING

HOG ISLAND

TRIP TO BACK BAY  
CHISTMAS COUNT

UNTIL MAY, CONTACT CRAIG TUMER (FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN)  
AT 220-5763 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRIPS

---

NATURE IS NOT A COMPETITION. IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER, WHEN YOU  
GO OUT, IF YOU DON'T IDENTIFY ANYTHING. WHAT MATTERS IS THE  
FEELING HEART.

--RICHARD ADAMS

---



---

## BIRD SIGHTINGS

Stephen Rottenborn- February 15th

FORT STORY:                    1 Pomarine Jaeger (dark phase)  
                                  1 Lesser Black-back Gull  
                                  1 Little Gull

February 16th

CRANEY ISLAND:                1 Clapper Rail  
                                  1 Merlin  
                                  1 Lesser Black-back Gull

Mitchell Byrd, Jamie Doyle, Craig Turner- March 2nd

CURLES NECK FARM:            1 White-fronted Goose  
                                  1 Lapland Longspur  
                                  1 Ring-necked Pheasant  
                                  12+ Common Mergansers  
                                  2 Bald Eagles (1 imm., 1 adult)

---

## MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome Suzy Woodall and Mariellen Soltys as our newest club members!

THIS IS IT.... This is the last newsletter sent to those members who have not renewed. Renewal forms are included with this newsletter for those of you who have yet to pay dues for 1989. Please send the money and renewal forms to Fred Blystone as soon as possible. We don't want to see you go.

---

THE GREATER THE EFFORTS WE MAKE TO FATHOM THE SECRETS OF THE BIRDS, THE MORE OUR KNOWLEDGE EXPANDS, THE CLEARER BECOMES OUR REALIZATION THAT THE SECRETS OF THE BIRDS WILL REMAIN MYSTERIES OF NATURE AS LONG AS SHE ABOUNDS WITH THE MIRACLES OF LIFE.

---HANS DOSSENBACH

---

ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MARCH 31ST.

*Jamie H. Doyle*

Biology Department  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

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