

The Williamsburg Flyer Jan. 1990

NEXT MEETING

On January 17th at 7:30PM in Millington 117, we will welcome Dr. Mitchell Byrd, Professor of Biology at the College of William and Mary, as our first guest speaker of the new decade. Dr. Byrd will talk about the methods and success concerning the reintroduction of Peregrine Falcons, a species brought to levels of endangerment due to DDT pesticide poisoning. Join us for:

"Peregrine Falcon Reintroduction- a Technique for Endangered Species Management."

NEXT FIELD TRIP

The next field trip, held on January 20th, will spotlight the birds of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Islands. Participants should meet at the Colonial Williamsburg Information Center-right side as you face it- at 8:00 AM.

The Tunnel Islands are an excellent location to see a large variety of birdlife under good viewing conditions. Last years January CBBT trip turned up these noteworthy species: Common Eider, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Surf Scoter, Black Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Harlequin Duck, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Cormorant, Gannet, Ruddy Turnstones, Purple Sandpipers, Gadwall, and Greater Scaup.

For your enjoyment (and ours) please bring a field guide, binoculars, lunch, and funds to contribute to the \$ 9.00 toll per car. ABOVE ALL ELSE--DRESS WARMLY !!!!!

LOCAL BIRD ALERT

Anyone interested in participating in the WBC's own "Rare" Bird Alert may call Bill Sheehan, the BA coordinator, in order to have their name and phone number registered. When a "rare" bird is seen the finders are asked to make a report to Bill as soon as possible. Bill will then notify all BA participants as to the species and location by phone. A BA membership list will be distributed at the next Club meeting so as to reduce the number of calls initially made to Bill's home. Bill Sheehan 220-2122.

*Welcome to a
new year and a new
decade of good
bindings!*



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Club participated in the 90th Annual Audubon Christmas Count on December 17th. It was one of the coldest counts, with snow on the ground, frozen ponds and temperatures which started at 12 degrees and never climbed out of the 20s. There was an excellent turnout of 44 counters, the most ever. Thirty were in the field and 14 more took note of what came to their feeders. The feeder corps turned their data in to our new Feeder Coordinatore, Bill Sheehan, who passed it along for the tally at 5PM.

The waterfowl were found mainly in the big rivers or flying overhead, but there were many in the area. Over 1800 Canada Geese were seen, over 1400 Pintails, more than 500 Black Ducks and more than 350 Canvasbacks to name a few. The total of 14 Bald Eagles was impressive. Twenty-two owls of three species were found by the pre-dawn owlers. The Brown-headed Nuthatch total was quite high at 57, with most found at Hog Island. As usual, every party made important contributions to the final list of 113 species, which was our second highest total since the count began in 1977. Two more birds that were seen during the count week, but not on count day were Great Cormorant at Kingsmill and Orange-crowned Warbler at Cheatham. The best bird of the count was found by Bill Williams at Cheatham Annex. It was an Ash-throated Flycatcher, rare vagrant from the west and one of

only a handful of Virginia Sightings. It is about the size and coloration of the Great-crested Flycatcher, which nests here.

Congratulations to all who came to help with the count! The group included Dave Anderson, Tom Armour, Ruth Beck, Fred Blystone, Iza Ciesznski, Bob Cross, Bland Crowder, Fred Farris, Bettye Field, Jim Friar, Jack Gross, Julie Hotchkiss, Ty Hotchkiss, Bo Howes, Teta Kain, Paul McAllister, Tom McCary, Mary Pulley, Steve Rottenborn, Bill Sheehan, Dorothy Silsby, Robert Steele, Brian Taber, Gail Taber, Marty McDonald, Mac McSondal, Dave West, Bill Williams, Martha Armstrong, Eleanor Hertz, Pat Crizer, Alice Springe, Martha Briggs, Anne Beckley, Barbara Ema, Bob Morris, Suzie Woodall, Bob Long, Dick Mahone, Ann Smith, Elsie Campbell, Joe Doyle, Grace Doyle, and Carolyn Lowe.

Brian Taber



WILLIAMSBURG CHRISTMAS COUNT LIST

Red-throated loon _____
 Common loon 1
 Pied-billed grebe 7
 Horned grebe 8
 Double-crested cormorant 295
 Great blue heron 146
 Great egret 1
 Tundra swan 317
 Snow goose 2
 Canada goose 1828
 Wood duck 11
 Green-winged teal 35
 American black duck 537
 Mallard 1188
 No. pintail 1417
 No. shoveler 7
 Gadwall 133
 American wigeon 4
 Canvasback 358
 Redhead 5
 Ring-necked duck 393
 Greater scaup _____
 Lesser scaup 106
 Common goldeneye 137
 Bufflehead 179
 Hooded merganser 221
 Common merganser 31
 Red-breasted merganser _____
 Ruddy duck 2284
 Black vulture 14
 Turkey vulture 73
 Bald eagle 5 ad. 9 imm.
 No. harrier 8
 Sharp-shinned hawk 10
 Cooper's hawk 1
 Red- ~~TAILED~~ hawk 23
 Red-shouldered hawk 12
 American kestrel 16
 Ring-necked pheasant _____
 Wild turkey _____
 No. bobwhite 79
 Clapper rail 1
 Amer. coot 43
 Killdeer 42
 Greater yellowlegs 1
 Lesser yellowlegs _____
 Common snipe 1
 Amer. woodcock 2
 Laughing gull _____
 Bonaparte's gull 15
 Ring-billed gull 721
 Herring gull 185
 Great black-backed gull 28
 Forster's tern _____
 Rock dove 181
 Mourning dove 272

Eastern screech owl 9
 Great horned owl 9
 Barred owl 4
 Belted kingfisher 20
 Red-headed woodpecker 9
 Red-bellied woodpecker 114
 Yellow-bellied sapsucker 46
 Downy woodpecker 66
 Hairy woodpecker 17
 Northern flicker 183
 Pileated woodpecker 33
 Eastern phoebe 11
 Blue jay 261
 American crow 275
 Fish crow 4
 Carolina chickadee 290
 Tufted titmouse 212
 Red-breasted nuthatch 5
 White-breasted nuthatch 73
 Brown-headed nuthatch 57
 Carolina wren 169
 House wren _____
 Winter wren 15
 Marsh wren 5
 Golden-crowned kinglet 212
 Ruby-crowned kinglet 160
 Eastern bluebird 220
 Hermit thrush 55
 Amer. robin 544
 Gray catbird 3
 No. mockingbird 120
 Brown thrasher 30
 Water pipit 87
 Cedar waxwing 160
 Starling 2088
 Yellow-rumped warbler 762
 Pine warbler 41
 Palm warbler 4
 Common yellowthroat _____
 No. cardinal 382
 Rufous-sided towhee 137
 Amer. tree sparrow 2
 Chipping sparrow 14
 Field sparrow 171
 Vesper sparrow _____
 Savannah sparrow 21
 Fox sparrow 19
 Song sparrow 342
 Swamp sparrow 26
 White-throated sparrow 814
 White-crowned sparrow 4
 Dark-eyed junco 1075
 Red-winged blackbird 1323
 Eastern meadowlark 80
 Rusty blackbird 9
 Common grackle 381
 BROWN CREEPER 15

WILLIAMSBURG CHRISTMAS COUNT LIST CONTINUED

Brown-headed cowbird ___3___
No. oriole ___3___
Purple finch ___29___
House finch ___380___

Pine siskin ___3___
Amer. goldfinch ___130___
Evening grosbeak ___7___
House sparrow ___90___

unusual finds:

Mute swan 2
Ash-throated flycatcher 1

Horned lark 1

Please send all information for future newsletters to:

Jamie K. Doyle
Biology Department
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

phone 220-6611 (H) 253-4240 (BIO DEPT)

submissions of species accounts, conservation notes,
illustrations, and upcoming birding events are all welcome and
encouraged!



*To be a bird is to be alive more intensively
than any other living creature... (Birds)
live in a world that is always the present,
mostly full of joy.*

-N.J. BERRILL