



# THE FLYER

Volume 19, Number 4

April/May, 1995

Williamsburg Bird Club

## Combined Issue

Please note that this month's newsletter is a combined issue for the months of April and May. Your editors will be heavily involved in the registration processing for the Joint meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society, the Virginia Society of Ornithology, and the Williamsburg Bird Club to be held in early May, making it impossible for them to publish and deliver a newsletter that month. We'll see you again in June.

## Club Meetings

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 19, 1995** at 7:30 PM in Room 117, Millington Hall at William and Mary. The **May meeting will be held May 17, 1995** at the same time and place.

The April program will be presented by Tom Armour. He will be showing photographs of wading birds he has taken during his travels about Virginia and the United States. Tom is an excellent birder and photographer, and his images will prove to be both interesting and educational.

The May program will be presented by Kristol Matthews on her studies of Black Skimmers. Kristol was last year's winner of the Williamsburg Bird Club Student Research Grant, and her research is looking into the colonizing and nesting habits of Black Skimmers. Come learn about this very unique and graceful bird.

## April Field Trip

Spend Earth Day the way it should be spent. Join the club on our monthly field trip. This

month we will be exploring Jamestown Island and the islands of Governor's Land with Brian Taber leading the trip. The warbler movement will be in full swing, and hopefully the Red-headed Woodpeckers will show their red heads. Meet at the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor's Center at 7:20 for a 7:30 departure.

## May Field Trip

Tom Armour will lead us on a trip to Hog Island May 20 for the club's monthly field experience. The group will meet at the usual spot - the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor's Center at 7:20 for a 7:30 departure. Tom will help everyone identify those hard to name shorebirds, and we will look to the sky for eagles and osprey. Last year this trip produced a rarely seen American Bittern. Bring some insect repellent just in case the insects are hungry.

## VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR THE JOINT WOS/VSO MEETING

There will be a meeting on April 18 at 7:00 PM in Millington Hall Room 108 of the local committee for the WOS/VSO Conference planning. **Everyone is invited to attend as we are still in need of help with the following activities:**

**Needed** Volunteers for early morning local bird walks Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. You will be asked to drive your automobile for the field trip, and we will team up for bird identification and trip leadership. Contact Brian Taber at 253-1181 if you can help.

**Needed** Cookies and muffins for the breaks during the conference. As a rule of the



baking thumb, each volunteer is asked to provide about three (3) dozen cookies and/or muffins. Contact Ruth Beck at 566-8234 if you'd like to volunteer.

**Needed** Welcome Packet Assemblers. Volunteers will be asked to assist in assembling the welcome packets for the conference attendees during the week of April 24-28. Contact Marilyn Zeigler at 220-2536 if interested.

## JOINT MEETING OF THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

May 4-7, 1995

Williamsburg, Virginia

Sponsored by the Williamsburg Bird Club with support from the Virginia Society of Ornithology and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

### CONFERENCE FEATURES

- A scientific program including all areas of ornithology.
- A symposium of *Ornithology in Northern Central America*.
- Field trips in the beautiful coastal plains of Virginia.
- A superb presentation of Hal Horwitz's photography, *Nature's Jewels*.
- A documentary, *Warbler Watching*, by Mike Male and Judy Fieth.
- Exhibits.
- Self-designed tours of Colonial Williamsburg and surrounding areas.

### CONFERENCE LOCATION

The joint meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society and the Virginia Society of Ornithology will be held May 4-7, 1995 at the Fort Magruder Inn and Conference Center, Williamsburg, Virginia. The Fort Magruder Inn and Conference Center is situated just minutes from the historic section of Williamsburg and the College of William and Mary. Historic Williamsburg provides a fascinating glimpse into the 18th Century. Williamsburg is located in the Coastal Plain region of Virginia. Early May weather is variable, but normally in the range of 65° to 85° F. Be prepared for pleasant, but sometimes rainy, conditions.

Bird migration is at its height in the area at the time of the meeting; many local areas provide good opportunities for seeing migratory species. Many summer residents will be on territory. Colonial nesting species are on territory throughout the Coastal Plains region.

The Fort Magruder Inn and Conference Center has 303 lodging rooms, each attractively furnished and equipped with private baths, and cable TV. Children under 16 stay free with parents.

### REGISTRATION

The registration fee for the conference is:

Full \$55.00 (Thurs., May 4 - Sun., May 7)  
Limited \$40.00 (Fri., May 5 @ 7:30 PM - Sun, May 7)

Student \$40.00 (Thurs., May 4 - Sun., May 7)

Activities for the Limited conference fee begin Friday, May 5 at 7:30 PM with the WOS/VSO Joint Session and Special Program.

Conference fees cover registration, coffee breaks (where applicable), cash bar social, cost of symposium guest speakers, and administrative costs.



The banquet and field trips are additional:

Banquet        \$30.00

Field Trips:

Jamestown Island	\$15.00
Hog Island	\$15.00
Craney Island	\$15.00
Kiptopeke State Park	\$30.00

Field trip fees are to cover cost of chartered buses.

\* Please complete the registration form provided in this newsletter, and mail to: The Williamsburg Bird Club, P.O. Box 1085, Williamsburg, VA 23187-1085

## New Members

The Williamsburg Bird Club would like to acknowledge their newest members:

Wendy Smith  
C.S. Box 172  
Williamsburg, VA 23186

Dorothy & Dick Reeves  
121 Shinnecock  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Forrest & Ruth Fenstermaker  
117 Southern Hills  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

## Owl Prowl Highlights

The "Owl Prowl" held after the March WBC meeting was well attended; 10 cars formed a caravan and we traveled to Treasure Island Road where we hooted to the tune of the 8 hoot call notes of Who Cooks, Who Cooks, Who Cooks for You'all! Three Barred Owls responded and exchanged hoots and cackles for about 5 -7 minutes. Also responding to the owl vocalizations were the spring peepers, the small

frogs that announce the arrival of spring. We all had fun waiting, listening and watching. Thanks to Randy and April Coleman for the extra trip into the Vineyards to check out additional owling spots.

## March Field Trip Summary

March 18 proved to be a beautiful day, although a little chilly to venture out and explore Presquile Island. Presquile is part of the James River National Wildlife Refuge, and it is located near the city of Hopewell. Sixteen people showed up for this journey.

The bird sightings were not large in number, but as always, good. The trip highlights included a wonderful ferry ride across the canal, and oh yes, the five Bald Eagles; three immatures soaring overhead at one time. Other birds included a Harrier, Turkey, and Tree Swallows.

Participants that explored this interesting island were Joy Archer, Carolyn Lowe, Barbara Moorman Rockwell, Tess Matteson, David and Sandra Norman, Dorothy Whitfield, Bob Morris, Sam, Katherine, and John Hart, Alice Lee and Leonard Sargent, Wendy Smith, Marilyn Lewis, and Mack Lundy.

## Field Notes for March, 1995

Spring is really starting to crank up and the migrants are beginning their push through our area. Due to space limitations, we're going to try to hit the highlights for the month in some semblance of chronological order, so here we go.

On March 5, there were 250 **Ring-necked Ducks** sighted on the pond at Kingsmill, and on the 6th there were about 400 **Lesser Scaup** on the James River. The Doyles had **Tree Swallows** and **Field Sparrows** at Camp Peary on the 5th as well. There were **Greater Yellowlegs** on the 13th and **Clapper Rails** on the 15th at College



Creek. Brian Taber had a **Cooper's Hawk** visit his neighborhood in Kingswood on the 16th, and on the same day, the first **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported at Jolly Pond. Several firsts for the season were spotted on the 19th; there was a **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Kingswood, **Barn Swallows** at Camp Peary, and **Purple Martins**, and **Royal Terns** at Hog Island. The 30th brought **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**, and 75 **Barn Swallows** again to Hog Island. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were also spotted from the ferry on the 30th.

Moving into early April, **Northern Parulas** and **Catbirds** were first seen at Jamestown Island on the 6th, and we had our first **Ovenbird** here in Banbury Cross on that date as well. **Blue-winged Teal**, and **Green Heron** were located at Jamestown Island on the 7th, and Steve Reams picks up the award for the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at his place in Queen's Lake also on the 7th. Tom Armour and Julie Hotchkiss also had hummers on the 10th. A **Black & White Warbler** was heard at Banbury Cross on the 10th. The 11th saw the first **Rough-winged Swallows** on the Colonial Parkway, and a pair of **Wood Ducks** with 15 ducklings (hooray!) was observed at Kingsmill. Ruth Beck has had **Palm Warblers** at her place in Barhamsville.

Keep the reports coming in through this busy time, and we'll try to summarize the spring migration in the June issue of the newsletter. Thanks to everyone who provided sightings: Joy Archer, Tom Armour, Martha Armstrong, Ruth Beck, Joe and Grace Doyle, Julie Hotchkiss, Steve Reams, Dave & Lee Schuster, Bill Snyder, Bill Sheehan, Brian Taber, and Bill Williams.

## Spring Bird Count

This year's Spring Count will be held April 30, a week early due to the conference. Help of all

kinds is needed, whether experienced or not. This time of year is so busy with birds that we need all the eyes and ears possible to catch the birds that fly through. This is a great opportunity to pick up some of the warblers that we rarely see, as well as to boost our life lists. If you are interested call Brian Taber at 253-1181.

## Meetings on New Quarter Park Golf Course

New Quarter Park is a very important natural area to York County, James City County, and Williamsburg. York County Parks and Recreation has proposed to develop an 18 hole golf course on the park grounds. This significant wetland community and ecosystem will be severely threatened by this development. A valuable natural resource and wildlife habitat would be altered to the point where it will lose much of its biological diversity. If you are interested in protecting this area and would like further information on what you can do to help out in this effort, contact Shaune Reams at 253-1954, or Joy Archer at 229-1432. Public meetings concerning the golf course and its development will be held on Tuesday May 2 at 7:00 PM in the Queens Lake Club House, and Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 PM at Griffin Yates near Penniman Road.

## Earth Day: Focus on Greenways

Come and celebrate Earth Day! The Historic Rivers Land Conservancy and The League of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area invite you to spend the day with them on Saturday April 22, at 2 PM, at Governor's Land for a program on greenways and a walk through the nature preserve bordering the James River. The 195 acres of marsh and woodland are



permanently protected under a conservation easement held by HRLC.

The meeting will be held in the Park East clubhouse by the lake and will feature a panel of four experts who will discuss the many benefits that the proposed Historic Rivers Greenway will bring to our communities. Landscape architect planner Jim Smither, with Carlton Abbott & Partners, will present the highlights of the Williamsburg Open Space Plan, and then look beyond at possible greenway corridors for a regional system. The role that greenways can play in protecting our threatened wildlife habitats will be explored by Bryan Watts, Director of the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary.

Scott Elder, Vice-president of Colonial Roadrunners and owner of Colonial Sports Shop, will talk about the outdoor recreational opportunities that greenway trails and bikeways will provide for citizens of all ages and interests. Finally, Will Gwilliam, FAIA, Chairman of the Economic Progress Committee of the Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce, will emphasize the connection between a community's quality of life and the health of its economy. Many communities across the country with successful greenways have discovered that connection.

There will be time for questions and further discussion, and refreshments will be served. A guided walk through the nature conservation area will conclude the Earth Day program. The HRLC and League of Women voters looks forward to seeing you April 22.

## Library Additions

The Williamsburg Bird Club has added seven new books to the Williamsburg Regional Library. Every year the club donates bird-related

books to the library after examining reviews of new publications. The following books were donated by the club in 1994:

Secrets of the Nest

Windbirds: Shorebirds of North America

Golden Guide: Eastern Birds

Bald Eagles

Birds of North America

Birdwatch

How to Spot an Owl

The Book of Eagles

Thanks to Alice Springe for her work on this effort.

## Great Smoky Mountain Wildflower Pilgrimage

For those of you who can take a spur-of-the-moment trip, I've got one for you. April 27, 28 and 29 are this year's dates for the annual Smoky Mountains Wildflower Pilgrimage. Dave and I have been attending the pilgrimage since 1980, missing only one or two years along the way. If you remember, a summary of our trip was written up in last May's newsletter.

Rain or shine, it always proves to be a wonderful trip for wildflowers, birds, and mountains. Each day there are guided walks - short or long, easy or strenuous - to places all over the mountains. The cost is about \$5.00 per day per person, and the money goes back into the next pilgrimage. It is sponsored by the University of Tennessee, and the Gatlinburg Garden Club. All trips are led by well trained volunteers from around the region. It is these trips that help me learn my wildflowers, and both of us increase our life list of birds.

Anyone who is interested, feel free to contact me - Lee Schuster at 565-6148.. We will be attending again this year.

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**JOINT MEETING OF THE  
WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY  
May 4 - 7, 1995  
Conference Registration**

Mail to:      The Williamsburg Bird Club  
                 P.O. Box 1085  
                 Williamsburg, VA 23187-1085

Your Name and Title should be written as you would like them to appear on your name tag.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBERS:

HOME \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

FIELD TRIPS - PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES:

		<u>Sat.</u>	<u>Sun.</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Registration - \$55	<input type="checkbox"/> Jamestown Island - \$15	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Registration - \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> Hog Island - \$15	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Registration - \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> Craney Island - \$15	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Banquet - \$55	<input type="checkbox"/> Kiptopeke State Park - \$15	_____	_____

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed. Make check payable to : The Williamsburg Bird Club

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