

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board
Williamsburg Bird Club
Thursday, 11 September 2014**

Conference Room, Human Service Building, 5249 Old Towne Road, Williamsburg

Board Member Attendees: Fred Blystone, Shirley Devan, Geoff Giles, Cheryl Jacobson, Jan Lockwood, Jeanette Navia,

Board Members Absent: Ann Carpenter, Cathy Millar

Chair Attendees: Jim Corliss, Jeanette Navia, Bill Williams

Chair Attendees Absent: Lee Shuster

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Geoff Giles.

Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar was not present: Cathy asked Shirley Devan to take minutes of the meeting. Minutes of the January 9, 2014 Board Meeting were approved as written. There were no corrections or additions. Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter was not present but sent the following info to Shirley Devan in advance of the meeting.

- Checkbook: \$7003.36
- CD's: \$5445.81
- Total Assets: \$12,449.17
- 2014 Income: \$9170
- 2014 Expenses: \$7234

After a review of the draft minutes, Ann asked that the following be included in the official minutes: The Williamsburg Bird Club has successfully registered with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs, as an organization that solicits donations. The initial registration cost was \$100 and the annual registration cost was \$30 for a total fee this year of \$130. Annual registration will occur in May of each calendar year. There will be an official notification to the Bird Club when the annual registration is due.

President's Report – Geoff Giles: Geoff reported on the W&M Bird Club organized by Nick Newberry with approximately a dozen undergraduate members. The Williamsburg Bird Club welcomes their participation in our events. Their members can join WBC for free if they receive the newsletter by email.

Committee Reports:

Newsletter – Fred Blystone and Shirley Devan: Fred advised the Board that he will not be able to do newsletters in 2015, but he is willing to continue to help print and mail the hard copies and send out membership renewal notices. Shirley advised the Board that it is not likely she can take on the job full time. She will advise Geoff later about her decision

Programs – Cheryl Jacobson: Cheryl reported the following programs scheduled for the rest of 2014 and early 2015:

- September 17, 2014: Dan Cristol will present a program about mercury and birds
- October 15 & November 19: Video (in 2 parts) on “Juncos” recommended by Dan Cristol
- January 21: Fletcher Smith of Center for Conservation Biology will present a program on Saltmarsh Sparrows and then lead a follow up field trip to the Eastern Shore to net Saltmarsh Sparrows
- February 18, 2015: Joint meeting with Historic Rivers Chapter of VA Master Naturalists. Presentation by Pearl Beamer on Wildlife Rehabilitation

Cheryl welcomes ideas from Board members for programs for 2015.

Field Trips – Jim Corliss: Jim Corliss reported upcoming Bird Club field trips:

- September 20: Newport News Park
- October 18: Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge and Kiptopeke State Park
- November: field trip is TBD. Several options were discussed.
- Upcoming possible field trips were discussed:
 - CBBT Boat trip
 - Island hopping on the CBBT
 - Warbler Road in spring
- Twice monthly Bird Walks at New Quarter Park will continue.

Membership – Jeanette Navia: Jeanette accepted donation of \$50 from Historic Rivers Chapter of VA Master Naturalists and expressed appreciation for the donation.

Records and Bird Counts – Bill Williams:

- Bill advised the Board that the Audubon Christmas Bird Count will be Sunday, December 14, 2014. Bill and Jim Corliss will coordinate the 2014 Count. Bill plans to turn over the reins of the Christmas count to Jim for next year.
- Spring Bird Count date is still TBD and will be scheduled to avoid the VSO Annual Meeting May 8-10 at Wintergreen.

- Bill suggested that the Club post a sign at Wild Birds Unlimited encouraging their customers to report their backyard birds to the Audubon Christmas Bird Count.
- Bill reported that at some point the Club will need to reprint the 2012 book: "The Birds of the Colonial Historic Triangle" He suggested approximately 2017 as a revision date.

Refreshments: Jan Lockwood reported that volunteers had signed up for provide refreshments for Club meetings through November 2014. She will circulate a sign up sheet for 2015 meetings at a later meeting.

Library Liaison – Lee Schuster not present: Jeanette Navia asked the Board if they felt it was necessary to change the text on the bookplate placed in books donated by the Bird Club to the Library. Currently the bookplate says "In memory of Alice Springe." Board discussed options for the bookplate. Board suggested that the Library revise the bookplate to give the birth and death year of Alice Springe to provide context to Alice's name. Jeanette will talk to her supervisor about changing the bookplate.

New Business:

- Geoff advised the Board that he had received a request from Kathy Van Mullekom for info for "... an October birding article and would like to feature 5-7 rare birds that you may see in this area ... like Baltimore oriole, which I had last year. Can you and/or your club contribute to this with info/images: scientific name, common name, descriptions, habitat, nesting/feeding needs by mid-September?" Geoff recorded suggestions from Board Members and several agreed to send photos to Geoff so he could respond to Kathy.
- Geoff advised the board that he had received a request for the Bird Club to exhibit at the Volunteer Fair at Colonial Heritage Wednesday, October 15, 4-6 pm. Since that is the same day as our Bird Club meeting, the Club does not have the staff for such an exhibit that day.
- Geoff suggested that the Club needs a publicity Chair to ensure that announcements about events get into the local press. Also, perhaps a person to start and maintain a Facebook page for the Club. Geoff will announce the opportunity at the Club meeting Sept 17.
- Geoff wants the Club to buy another supply of caps with the Bird Club name and mascot embroidered on the front. Shirley will investigate prices and models and get back to Geoff with options.

Geoff adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Devan for Cathy Millar
Williamsburg Bird Club
September 16, 2014