

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the
Williamsburg Bird Club**
Wednesday, January 19, 2011
Room 150, Millington Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: 40

President's Remarks:

- President Shirley Devan opened the meeting and mentioned that this is the Bird Club's 34th year. She welcomed club members and asked new members and guests to identify themselves.
- Shirley reminded everyone about putting parking permits on their vehicles and thanked Dan Cristol for helping the club resolve this issue.
- Shirley thanked the club officers who served in 2010 – Alice Kopinitz and Chuck Litterst – and welcomed the officers and committee chairs for 2011. She asked each officer/committee chair to identify themselves to the group. They are:

Joe Piotrowski, VP Programs
Fred Blystone, VP Newsletter Editor
Chuck Rend, Treasurer
Jennifer Boag, Secretary
Jeanette Navia, Member at Large
Ann Carpenter, Member at Large

- Shirley reminded club members that it was time to pay membership dues for 2011 and commented that Chuck Rend, Treasurer, was present at the meeting and would be happy to take payments.
- Shirley asked Bill Williams to share the preliminary results of this year's Christmas Bird Count:
 - A tentative total of 109 species were seen including a Semi-Palmated Plover, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, and a Double-Crested Cormorant.
 - There were almost 50 participants including feeder watchers.
- Shirley mentioned that Bill will be coordinating the Spring Bird Count in late April or early May.
- Shirley remarked that we have received 9 applications for the Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarship and evaluation had begun. Mary Anne Fennell, Jeanette Navia, Alex Minarik, Lee Schuster and Gary Carpenter are the evaluators. Two scholarships will be awarded for the 2011 summer season.
- Shirley mentioned that John Fennell has set a date for the Adopt-a-Highway program.
- Shirley thanked Barb Streb for providing refreshments after the meeting and for heading up the Refreshments Committee again this year. She mentioned that Barb will be passing around a sign-up sheet so volunteers can sign up to help with refreshments at a future meeting. We already have a volunteer for the February meeting!
- Shirley mentioned that Bird Club hats and shirts are available for a donation.

Other Business:

Club members mentioned the following interesting birds in their yards:

- Large Red-Shouldered Hawk attempting to hijack a suet feeder
- Pine Siskins
- Towhee

Geoff Giles reported that there were 35 participants in the CBBT field trip last weekend led by Brian Taber, President of the Coastal VA Wildlife Observatory and a member of the club. The group was excited to see numerous harbor seals as well as Brants, Buffleheads, Common Loons, a Great Blue Heron, Long-Tailed Ducks, Brown Pelicans, Great Cormorants, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Ruddy Turnstones, Purple Sandpipers, and others.

Upcoming Events:

- Bird Walk on January 22 at New Quarter Park at 7:00 a.m. led by Bill Williams.
- Sara Lewis announced a Bird Walk Sunday, January 23 at New Quarter Park at 8:00 a.m. sponsored by the Sierra Club. Bird Club members were invited to attend.
- Great Backyard Bird Count –“Presidents’ Day” weekend, February 18-21, 2011.
- Next club meeting will be Wednesday, February 16, 2011.

Program:

Joe Piotrowski introduced our guest speaker, Mike Wilson, from the Center for Conservation Biology at W&M and VCU. Mike gave an interesting talk on “*Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers in Virginia: History, Status, and Future.*”

At the end of the program, a free raffle was conducted for three books including *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, Fowl Obsession* by Mark Obmascik, and *Bringing Nature Home* by Doug Tallamy.

Closing:

Shirley adjourned the meeting and refreshments were served in the Millington lobby outside Room 150.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer A. Boag, Secretary
Williamsburg Bird Club
February 1, 2011