

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the  
Williamsburg Bird Club**  
*Wednesday, May 18, 2011*  
Room 150, Millington Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**Attendance:** 32

**President's Remarks:**

- President Shirley Devan opened the meeting. She welcomed club members and asked new members and guests to identify themselves.

**Other Business:**

- Club members mentioned the following interesting birds in their yards: Common Yellow-Throat, Prothonotary Warblers, Bluebirds, Pileated Woodpecker, Baltimore Oriole, Indigo Bunting, and Barred Owl.
- At the VSO Annual Meeting this past weekend, The VSO honored Dr. Mitchell Byrd's scientific legacy in perpetuity by establishing **The Mitchell A. Byrd Award for Scientific Achievement**. This award is to be awarded to individuals in recognition of outstanding scientific contributions that embody Dr. Byrd's life-long dedication to the study, understanding, and protection of Virginia's birds. In recognition of Outstanding Contributions to the Science of Ornithology, The VSO presented The Mitchell A. Byrd Award to Daniel A. Cristol, Professor of Biology at William and Mary.
- Our treasurer of 17 years, Chuck Rend, has resigned because of serious health problems. Ann Carpenter, currently a Member-at-Large on the Board, has agreed to be interim Treasurer for the rest of 2011.
- In 2010 our Bird Club considered adopting a Virginia Audubon IBA (Important Bird Area) – The Western Shore Marshes (lower Chesapeake Bay western shore). These marshes are in York County, Poquoson, Hampton, Gloucester, and Mathews County. We decided to postpone adoption until we could find a partner to co-adopt the area with us. The Hampton Roads Bird Club has agreed to co-adopt this IBA with our Club. Their president, Marilyn White, and Shirley will meet with Mary Elfner to formalize the adoption. We will be planning some joint field trips to these areas in the future. We may also plan Bird Counts, Bay Cleanups, and other activities. Several areas in this IBA are on the Birding and Wildlife Trail.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Field trip to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Riverside Drive on Saturday, May 21, 6:00 a.m. This is Site CRI11 on the Virginia Birding & Wildlife Trail. It is near the falls of the James River and is

one of the top hotspots in the Richmond Area. Leader is Lewis Barnett, president of the Richmond Audubon Society.

- Bird Walk @New Quarter Park, Saturday, May 28, 2011, 7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Led by Bill Williams.
- Annual Picnic at Ruth & Sherwin Beck's home in Barhamsville on June 5, 2011. Event begins at 4:00 p.m. Jean Rend is organizing the pot luck.

**Program:**

Joe Piotrowski introduced our guest speakers-two W&M graduate students who received the Club's 2010 William Sheehan and Ruth Beck Ornithological Research Grants:

**Sarah Lemelin**—*Effects of Mercury on Reproductive Success and Adrenocortical Function.*

**Amanda Bessler**—*The Effect of Mercury on Zebra Finch Spatial Memory.*

**Closing:**

At the end of the program, a free raffle was conducted for Ken Kaufman's *Field Guide to Advanced Birding* and a tote bag.

Shirley adjourned the meeting and refreshments were served in the Millington lobby outside Room 150. The refreshments were provided by Barbara Berlin and Barb Streb.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer A. Boag, Secretary  
Williamsburg Bird Club  
May 24, 2011