

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board  
Williamsburg Bird Club  
Room 113, Human Services Building  
5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg, VA  
Monday, January 23, 2012

Board Member Attendees: Fred Blystone, Jennifer Boag, Ann Carpenter, Shirley Devan, Geoff Giles, Jeanette Navia

Chair Attendees: John Fennell, Jeanette Navia, Bill Williams

Board Members Absent: Bob Long, Joe Piotrowski

Chair Attendees Absent: Lee Schuster, and Barb Streb

Guests: None

President Shirley Devan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

New Business

Bill Williams discussed the Christmas Bird Count and suggested that we make significant changes for the 2012 count:

- Re-draw the lines for each area. For example, Cheatham Annex is divided into two parts and no one is covering Ford's Colony. We will need more people in the field to adequately cover the area. Of the 68 participants we had last year, many were Master Naturalists and over a dozen only watched feeders.
- We also need to promote the Backyard Feeder Watch and Great Backyard Bird Count.

Bill also mentioned:

- He has "closed the door" on the data he is including in his book on *Birds of the Colonial Triangle* on 1/31/11. He has updated the local bird list for 2011 on the club's website. He is planning to finish his book this year.
- Geoff suggested that Bill do a book signing at Wild Birds Unlimited to market his new book as well as the local bird list.

Group discussion centered on sponsoring a regular event at Wild Birds Unlimited to allow club members to interact with local birders, help market the club, and drive traffic to the store.

Secretary's Report – Jennifer Boag

The Minutes of the November 10 board meeting were approved.

President's Report – Shirley Devan

Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter

- Ann rolled one of our CD's over for two more years in order to get a slightly better interest rate.
- There is \$250 left over from last week's boat trip which the club will either return to each person or use to pay their way for the next boat trip.
- Shirley suggested that we increase our donation to the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory to \$250 for this year in order to purchase a ¼ page ad in their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication. In order to make the finances work, she suggested that we decrease the amount we give to the IBA by \$50 this year. Jeannette also suggested that we could reduce the amount of our contribution to the Williamsburg Regional Library. Fred suggested that we could reduce our donation to the Williamsburg Land Conservancy instead. Shirley also thought we could decrease our donation to the Center for Conservation Biology. The decision was made to decrease the IBA donation by \$50 to cover the increased donation to the CVWO.
- The decision was made to allocate our donations as follows: \$50 to IBA, \$150 to WRL, \$150 to WLC, \$250 to CVWO, \$100 to CCB=\$750 Total.
- Nature Camp Scholarships are being increased by \$50 each this year.

Committee Reports

**A. Newsletter – Fred Blystone**

- Cost has gone up 18%. Fred has been offered a better deal at Staples but was not happy with the work Staples has done in the past. He would prefer to continue to use FedEx.
- Fred recommended that we only publish one summer newsletter.

**B. Programs – Joe Piotrowski**

Joe announced the following programs:

2/15/12	TBD
3/21/12	Mark Adams re: TBD
4/18/12	Randy Thrasher re: TBD
5/16/12	W&M graduate students re: current research projects

**C. Field Trips – Geoff Giles**

Geoff said last weekend's boat trip was terrific despite terrible weather. The group saw whales breach including a mother with her calf. They also saw bottlenose dolphins and harbor seals. Geoff particularly enjoyed seeing a Parasitic Yeager chase a Forster's Tern. There were also a lot of Northern Gannets. The group had an

excellent tour leader who replaced Brian Taber. The trip cost \$25 per person and included members of the Hampton Roads Bird Club.

Geoff announced the following field trips:

- 2/18/12 **Dutch Gap County Park** (near Henricus Historic settlement) led by Geoff Giles & Shirley Devan.
- 2/25/12 CBBT Island Hopping Trip with the Hampton Roads Bird Club. Our club has been invited to send 10 people at \$10 per person. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. and begin birding by 9:00 a.m.
- TBD Boat Trip.
- 3/17/12 **Western Shore Marshes IBA** led by TBD. Will coordinate with the Hampton Roads Bird Club.
- 4/21/12 42d Street?
- 5/19/12 TBD

**D. Membership/Webmaster – Jeanette Navia**

- 93 paid members including 4 new people.

**E. Records and Bird Counts – Bill Williams**

**F. Refreshments – Barb Streb**

No report.

**G. Library Liaison – Lee Schuster**

No report.

**H. Adopt-a-Highway – John Fennell**

- Will set a highway pick-up date in late April or early May.

**I. Historian – Open position**

No report.

Old Business

New Business

- The status of the Nature Camp Scholarship applications process was discussed. We have 14 applications and are in the process of evaluating them. The Hampton Roads Horticultural Society wants to award a scholarship so we will forward the name of our third place finalist to them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.