

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the
Williamsburg Bird Club**
Wednesday, March 21, 2012
Room 150, Millington Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: 42

President's Remarks:

- President Shirley Devan opened the meeting. She welcomed club members and asked new members and guests to identify themselves.
- Shirley reminded everyone that they needed a Parking Permit for their car.
- Shirley asked members to report recent bird observations to the group. Members reported sightings of the following birds in nests: Bluebirds, Chickadees, Phoebes, Brown Thrashers, and Herons. Other sightings included: Ospreys, Eagles, Yellow-Throated Warblers, and Dark-Eyed Juncos.
- Shirley mentioned that refreshments after the meeting would be provided by Barb Streb and Geoff Giles.
- Shirley reminded the group about the Cabin Fever Event at New Quarter Park this Saturday, March 24.
- Shirley reminded everyone that Bird Club hats, pins, and patches are available during refreshments for a donation.

Upcoming Field Trips & Bird Walks:

Geoff Giles told the group about the following upcoming field trips and bird walks:

- 3/24/12 Bird Walk at New Quarter Park.
- 3/31/12 Highway Cleanup in Croaker. Meet at Garrett's Grocery at 9:00 a.m.
- 4/14/12 Bird Walk at New Quarter Park.
- 4/22/12 Field Trip to the Great Dismal Swamp led by Bob Ake.

Other Business:

- Shirley discussed the results of the Great Backyard Bird Count. Williamsburg was #2 in the state with 108 species and 281 checklists. If we include Yorktown, we have 347 checklists which makes us #1 in the state and #6 in the country.

Program:

Shirley introduced Mark Adams of Charlottesville who gave a talk on “Big Year Chronicles,” a survey of books about birding Big Years which have been published since Roger Tory Peterson and James Fisher chronicled their 1953 field trip around North America in *Wild America*. Mark is an astronomer who works for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Charlottesville, VA, where he is the Assistant Director for Communications. Previously, he was the Site Director for the University of Texas-McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mountains of west Texas. A bird watcher since 1995, Mark chronicled his Big Year in *Chasing Birds across Texas: A Birding Big Year* (Texas A&M University Press, 2003). He is a regional editor for *North American Birds* magazine.

At the end of the program, a free raffle was conducted.

Shirley adjourned the meeting at 8:50 and refreshments were served in the lobby outside Millington 150.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer A. Boag, Secretary
Williamsburg Bird Club
April 21, 2012