

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the
Williamsburg Bird Club**
Wednesday, May 16, 2012
Room 150, Millington Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: 35

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.
- Dan Cristol showed the group a “mystery bird” which crashed into a window at a home in Graylin Woods. The bird was a Black-Billed Cuckoo which is not common in this area.
- Shirley asked members to report recent bird observations to the group. Members reported sightings of the following birds: Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Prothonotary Warbler, Elf Owl (in Texas), Bluebird, Osprey chicks (New Quarter Park), Carolina Wren, and Cardinal.
- Shirley mentioned that refreshments after the meeting would be provided by Joanne & Alex Andrews and Barb Streb.

Upcoming Field Trips & Bird Walks:

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

- May 19: Western Shore Marshes Important Bird Area – Survey and Cleanup. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Gosnold's Hope Park in Hampton. Two hours of bird survey; two hours of cleanup. Departure is 7:00 a.m. from Colony Square.
- May 26: Bird Walk at New Quarter Park @ 7:00 a.m. Meet at the Visitor Center. Leader is Bill Williams.
- June 2: Bird Walk at Waller Mill Park @8:00 a.m. Leader is Shirley Devan
- June 9: Field trip to Piney Grove in Sussex County to see Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers. These woodpeckers are the most endangered in Virginia; there are about 47 nesting pairs in the state. Departure time is 4 a.m. There are a few spots left. See Geoff Giles.
- June 16: Kayaking & Birding on Queen's Creek. Led by Jill Bieri and Lee Schuster of Chesapeake Experience. You can rent a kayak from Chesapeake Experience or bring your own. Arrive at New Quarter Park by 8:30 a.m. Limit of 18 guests. R.S.V.P. to Shirley Devan.

Other Business:

55 people participated in the Spring Bird Count on April 29; approximately 159 species were identified.

Program:

Joe Piotrowski introduced the following W&M graduate students who spoke about their research:

Kenton Buck—*An evolutionary approach to investigating mercury contamination in songbirds.*

Jenna R. Carlson—*The effect of mercury on molt and flight performance in European Starlings.*

Megan Kobiela—*Does mercury contamination affect risk-taking behaviors in a small songbird? Tradeoffs between eating and being eaten.*

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer A. Boag, Secretary
Williamsburg Bird Club
June 10, 2012