

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the
Williamsburg Bird Club**
Wednesday, January 16, 2013
Room 150, Millington Hall, W&M, 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: 69

President's Remarks:

- President Shirley opened the meeting. She remarked that this is the Bird Club's 36th year!
- Shirley welcomed club members and asked new members (1) and visitors (10) to identify themselves.
- Shirley reminded everyone that they needed a Parking Permit on their car.
- Shirley welcomed the officers of 2013 and introduced them, asking them to identify themselves if present.
 - Joe Piotrowski, VP Programs
 - Fred Blystone, VP Newsletter Editor
 - Ann Carpenter, Treasurer
 - Cathy Millar, Secretary
 - Jeanette Navia, Member at Large
 - Geoff Giles, Member at Large
- Shirley welcomed and introduced the Committee Chairs
 - Geoff Giles, Field Trips
 - Records & Bird Counts: Bill Williams
 - Library Liaison: Lee Schuster
 - Refreshments: Barb Streb
 - Membership & Webmistress: Jeanette Navia
 - Adopt-a-Highway: John Fennell
- Shirley reminded everyone to pay their 2013 membership dues and to give them to her or Gary Carpenter standing in for our Treasurer, Ann Carpenter.
- Shirley reported on the success of the Christmas Bird Count.
 - Number of species: 111, 3 above average.
 - Number of participants: 82, a new record. Previous record, 62.

Shirley thanked Bill Williams who compiled all the data and sent it off to the National Audubon Society.

Bill Williams commented that the Feeder Watch was an important part of the 2012 Christmas Bird Count in adding to the number of species and total numbers counted. He was also pleased that the ages involved (8-91) encompassed 4 generations!

Bill also announced that the 2013 Spring Bird Count will be May 5th and the Christmas Bird Count will be December 15th.

- Shirley asked people about recent interesting bird observations. At their feeding stations, Jeanette Navia still has orange crowned warblers and Bill Williams has the western tanager. Pine siskins and red breasted nuthatches are still being spotted.

Announcements:

- Dr. Dan Cristol told the group about the upcoming 125th annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society at W&M, March 7-10. It is one of the oldest ornithological societies in the US and Dan described it as one the most open and friendly to non-academics. He was excited

about the key speakers, Peter and Rosemary Grant, who are distinguished for their studies demonstrating the evolution of the celebrated Galapagos finches first noted by Darwin. Other speakers will be researchers presenting their material before being published in mainstream bird magazines. 300 attendees have already signed up from as far as Mexico and Canada. The meetings will be held in W&M's Sadler Center, and he invited the members to volunteer in activities like manning booths. He directed those interested to contact Shirley. He said that he would post the cost of a special local birders ticket on the WBC web site and to keep checking it for further details. Registration is open until February 1st.

- Shirley announced that refreshment tonight will be provided by Barb Streb, whom she thanked for heading up the committee again this year. Shirley said that Barb will be passing around a sign-up sheet for members to volunteer bringing refreshments this year. She recommended that if one is interested, one can get another member to help or ask Shirley to find one.
- Craig Hill of the Colonial Nature Photography Club, which meets the first Monday of every month, announced that they are looking for speakers at their club meetings. The subject does not have to be about nature but definitely photography-related.

Upcoming Events:

- January 19: Boat trip on Chesapeake Bay. Geoff Giles reported that it is fully booked.
- January 26: Bird Walk at New Quarter Park @ 7:00a.m.
- February 15-18: Great Backyard Bird Count. Shirley encouraged members to record their backyard birds for science! Web site for submissions on the handout of upcoming events.
- February 16: Field trip to Dutch Gap Conservation Area.
- February 20: The guest speaker for the club meeting will be Bob Schamerhorn presenting "The Wet and Wild II" bird bath program.
- March 20: Joe Piotrowski will give an illustrated presentation on his birding in the Dominican Republic at the club meeting.

Program: Joe Piotrowski introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Andrew Dolby, who presented the topic: "Left out in the Cold: The Anatomical and Physiological Adaptations that Allow Birds to Cope with the Challenges of Winter". Dr. Dolby is the Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg. He is also the current president of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. Before starting his informative presentation, Dr. Dolby recognized Shirley Devan for her significant contributions to the VSO as Membership Chair.

At the end of the program, a free raffle was conducted as well as 3 books donated by Christine and Dave Woodcox given away.

Shirley adjourned the meeting at 9:00p.m. and refreshments were served in the lobby outside.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary
Williamsburg Bird Club
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