

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the
Williamsburg Bird Club**
Wednesday, March 20, 2013
Room 150, Millington Hall, W&M, 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: approximately 45

President's Remarks:

- President Shirley opened the meeting with a welcome on the first day of spring to club members and 3 visitors.
- Shirley reminded everyone about using Parking Permits.
- Shirley enquired about recent bird sightings. A Red Crossbill is still being sighted (historically only the 4th in the Historic Triangle). Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, White Throated Sparrows, and Yellow-rumped Warblers were still hanging around. One member noted that the Yellow-rumped Warblers were so numerous that they were bullies at his feeder. Chipping Sparrows and Phoebes noted and Pine Warblers still in great numbers. Ospreys are back and building nests and tree swallows have been spotted. For those who would like to add Gannets to their life list, they are being spotted in Yorktown.
- Shirley gave thanks to George and Valerie Copping and Wild Birds Unlimited for their recent generous donation that they give twice a year from a percentage of the receipts of sales to club members. Members were reminded that they need to let the sales staff know so that their receipt will be put in the "Bird Club's Box".
- Shirley thanked Barb Streb, Jennifer Boag, and Kathy Klauser for providing this evening's refreshments.
- Shirley reminded members that Bird Club hats and Bill's books are available for a donation.

Upcoming Events:

- March 23: Walk in the Forest at New Kent Forestry Center. This the only time each year that this site is open to the public. Jim Corliss will lead a bird walk at 7:00 a.m. Another bird walk for Boy Scouts will be led by Geoff Giles at 8 a.m. to which bird club members are welcome. There are activities all day and free trees available.
- March 23: Bird Walk at New Quarter Park at 7:00 a.m. with Bill Williams leading. Meet at parking lot near Visitor Center.
- April 6: "For the Birds Family Fun Day" at Virginia Living Museum, 10a.m. to 4p.m. Our Bird Club will have an exhibit there. Rock Moselein, club member and VLM staff member, described the activities including live birds on display.
- April 12-13: Birding Cup Challenge, a fund raiser for Virginia Living Museum. Shirley encouraged members to form a team or support the "Wren Wrustlers", a team formed by club members Jeanette Navia, Jan Lockwood, and Shirley Devan, with an online donation (site noted in Events handout) or check made payable to VLM. People must sign up by this coming Monday.

- April 13: Bird Walk at New Quarter Park at 8:00 a.m. Meet at the parking lot near the Visitor Center.
- April 20: Field trip to the Dismal Swamp

Program:

Joe Piotrowski introduced himself as the guest speaker. Curiosity ran high when he began by passing around a jar of pennies asking each member to take one. Then he gave an illustrated talk about his one week birding in the Dominican Republic last March. He and his wife were visiting their daughter, a Virginia Tech student who was taking a semester there. VA Tech Ornithology Professor Jerry Via was teaching ornithology that week so Joe tagged along on their morning bird walks. We finally learned what the penny was for when he showed us a photo of the Vervain Hummingbird which at 2.4 grams weighs less than a penny at 2.5 grams!

At the end of the meeting a free raffle was held.

Shirley adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m. and refreshments were served in the lobby outside.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary
Williamsburg Bird Club
March 21, 2013