

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the
Williamsburg Bird Club**

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Andrews Auditorium, W&M, 7:30

Attendance: 55

President's Remarks:

- President Shirley Devan opened the meeting and welcomed club members noting that there were many new faces.
- Shirley reminded people to put Parking Permits on their dashboards warning that members parking without them have been fined almost \$200.
- Shirley asked visitors to introduce themselves. There were a total of 31.
- Shirley noted that this is the 36th September that WBC has met on the campus of W&M. In 1977, professors, grad and undergraduate students of the Biology Dept. had founded the club and met in a small room in Millington. At this meeting, there are over 50 present meeting in a large auditorium!
- Shirley enquired about recent bird observations, especially migrants. Yellow warblers and redstarts had been seen. Shirley reported that last week on Hog Island she had seen yellow warblers, yellow throated warblers and black & white warblers giving a taste of what we might expect to see on this coming Saturday field trip to Hog Island.

Upcoming Events:

- Shirley called on Geoff Giles, Field Trip Coordinator, to tell the group about upcoming field trips. Geoff announced the following trips:
 1. Saturday, September 21: Field trip to Hog Island in Surry County. Meet at 7:30 am at Colony Square Shopping Center on Jamestown Road to carpool across the ferry. Leader will be Bill Williams. Bring photo ID for access through Surry Nuclear Power Station and an access pass (link for getting one in the newsletter). No facilities on the island.
 2. Saturday, October 19: Field trip to see shorebirds at Grandview Beach in Hampton. Details to follow.

Announcements:

- Shirley thanked Dick and Sharon Keifer and Barb Streb for providing tonight's refreshments.
- Shirley called on George Copping of Wild Birds Unlimited to come to the front of the room to recognize him and Valerie for their generous contribution of \$625 to the WBC. George thanked the membership for their support of Wild Birds Unlimited which opened at the end of 1990. As a token of their appreciation, 5% of all purchases made by members are donated to the WBC scholarship fund. Cathy Millar took a photo of George, President Shirley and Treasurer Ann Carpenter for a press release.

- Shirley called on Audrey Root and Zoe Averett who were this year's winners of the Nature Camp Scholarships to come forward to be recognized and had a photo taken for our newsletter and perhaps the newspaper. This was Audrey's second time to Nature Camp and Zoe's first.
- Dan Cristol announced that Audrey has put the club's scholarship to good use in that she was so inspired at Nature Camp that she has been inventorying the scientific collection of bird species at W&M and is continuing to do so.
- Dan announced that we would have to move to room 150 at Millington Hall as he does not have the access code to the AV equipment needed for tonight's program at Andrews.
- After club members got settled at Millington, Shirley commented on the lovely poster that was a handout for members about the Stonehouse Elementary School garden in Williamsburg. She asked Jan Newton to talk about it. Jan said that the garden was begun about 9 or 10 years ago as a learning garden and wildlife habitat for school use. It has flourished so well that there are now over 150 native species of plants and invited members to see it. Shirley said that the garden has been so abundant that many plants have been donated to native plant sales. Shirley explained that the other handout accompanied this evening's program. She also reported that Cynthia Long had brought envelopes of seeds of native plant species that will be available for members to pick up during refreshments.

Program:

Kathi Mestayer gave an introduction to the DVD that we were about to see. It is a lecture that Douglas Tallamy, author of Bringing Nature Home, gave to a native plant society in Florida. Titled How to Turn Your Yard into a Wild Bird Magnet, the lecture was professionally filmed and Mr. Tallamy has given permission for its use as long as there are no fees for showing it. Tallamy is professor and chair of the Dept. of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. His lecture described the many environmental challenges we face and how we have a choice in how we plant our own landscapes to make a significant difference.

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

Shirley adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm and refreshments were served at the front of the room.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary, Williamsburg Bird Club
September 19, 2013