

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the
Williamsburg Bird Club**
Wednesday, January 15, 2014
Andrews Hall, Room 101, W&M, 7:30 pm

Attendance: 64

President's Remarks:

- Newly elected president, Geoff Giles, opened the meeting and welcomed club members, guests and visitors.
- Geoff noted that he had big shoes to fill following Shirley Devan who had been president for the last 6 years.
- Geoff remarked that we had good weather for the coming Chesapeake Bay Boat trip with a full boat and 10 people on the waiting list.
- Geoff pointed out that Jim Corliss had a table at the back of the room with forms for the upcoming field trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel islands tour and was accepting cash and checks tonight.
- Geoff asked how many guests were present (3) and to stand and identify themselves.
- Geoff commented that he'd been reviewing the welcoming letter that is part of a packet so nicely prepared by Jeanette Navia for new members of the Bird Club. From it, he outlined the functions of the Bird Club.
 1. Publication of the Flyer ten times a year
 2. Monthly programs at the club meetings
 3. Monthly field trips
 4. Bi-monthly bird walks
 5. Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count (added there were over 100 participants this year).
 6. Annual Spring Bird Count in May
 7. Annual donation of 10-12 books to the Williamsburg Regional Library
 8. A Birders Speakers Bureau available to local groups
 9. Two scholarships to the Nature Camp
 10. Three grants to graduate students at W&M in the ornithology program
 11. An informative web site maintained by Jeanette Navia
 12. Monthly donation of bird seed to the Feeder Project at Child Development Resources. Geoff asked Deborah Woodward to describe this project to the membership. Deborah explained the general purposes of the agency. She then described a play group setting with floor to ceiling windows outside of which hang the bird feeders. She commented that a number of kids who don't usually talk are motivated to say 'bird' at the site of the birds on the feeders.

- Geoff observed that we have several out-going club board members and took time to recognize them.
 - He asked Shirley Devan to come down and thanked her for her 6 years of excellent service to the club. He then presented her with a bouquet of flowers and a snowy owl statue.
 - He asked Barb Streb to come down and thanked her for managing the feeder station at the end of each club meeting for 7 years. She had not only coordinated others but also baked many of the goodies herself. He presented her with a bouquet.
 - He recognized Joe Piotrowsky for serving as Vice President and organizing the club's programs for 5 years. Joe was not present as, being a physician, he was on call for the evening.
- Geoff asked Dan Cristol to stand and be recognized by the membership for making the facilities at W&M available, providing parking passes and setting up the AV equipment at each meeting.

New Business:

Announcements:

- Geoff reminded the membership that 5% of the sales at Wild Birds Unlimited go to WBC if one identifies oneself as a member.
- Geoff announced that we need a volunteer for the position of chairperson or persons for the refreshment committee to replace Barb. He requested that if interested to contact him or Barb. Barb Streb, performing her last duty, passed around a sign-up sheet that listed upcoming meetings for 2014 and on which she asked for members to volunteer for bringing refreshments. She suggested that there be 2 volunteers per meeting.

Upcoming Events:

- Geoff asked Jim Corliss, Field Trip Coordinator, to tell the group about upcoming field trips. Jim announced the following field trips:
 - Saturday, January 18: Chesapeake Bay Boat trip is on with 60 folks participating and a wait list. Commented that this trip is of interest to birders throughout the state.
 - Saturday, February 1: A tour of the 4 islands of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. There are 19 sign-ups so far. If 11 more are interested, there will be a second group added.
 - Still working on March field trip.
- Geoff asked Program Coordinator, Cheryl Jacobson, to tell the group about upcoming programs.
 - February: Libby will speak about the health of the Osprey and the Chesapeake Bay.
 - March: Fletcher Smith will talk about his research on the Saw-whet Owl.
 - April: The W&M grad students who received last year's grants will report on their research projects.
 - May: Bill Williams will give a presentation on the identification of warblers.

Program: Geoff asked Shirley Devan to introduce this evening's speaker.

Barbara is a recognized prize winning nature photographer who works as an accounting manager for a paper products company in Hopewell. Her long commute from her home in New Kent led to the discovery of a number of great birding spots. She shared these plus many others within our area in *DESTINATIONS: Places to go and things to see in our area*. She presented maps clearly showing where these areas are and many great photos taken at these spots with her 400mm lens.

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

Geoff adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm and refreshments were served at the back of the room. The refreshments included two beautiful cakes featuring the Bird Club's logo, the Red-headed Woodpecker, honoring Shirley Devan and Barb Streb.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary, Williamsburg Bird Club,
January 16, 2014