

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the
Williamsburg Bird Club**
November 19, 2014
Andrews Hall, Room 101, W&M, 7:30 pm

Attendance: 57

President's Remarks:

- President Geoff Giles opened the meeting and welcomed club members including 6 visitors. He also announced that it was Cynthia Long's birthday and everyone joined in on singing 'Happy Birthday' to this long-time active member.
- Geoff enquired about interesting bird sightings. Nick Newberry, president of the W&M Bird Club reported that Rusty Blackbirds were back on campus and that they'd picked up a dead victim of window collision, a female Painted Bunting, first ever reported on campus. Bill Williams reported that the Greater White-fronted Goose is currently being seen almost daily at Mainland Farm. It is about 1/3 smaller than the Canada Geese with which it hangs out and has orange legs and pink bill. It is being speculated that it strayed over from Greenland and fell in with a flock of Canada Geese. A Snow Goose was also seen at Mainland Farm.
- Geoff asked how many were involved in the project FeederWatch to which a good number of hands were raised. He commented about how this is good practice for the upcoming Christmas Bird Count which led to the first announcement.

Announcements:

- Geoff asked that members mark Sunday, December 14 on their calendars for the upcoming Christmas Bird Count. He invited Bill Williams for further comments. Bill said all the information is in THE FLYER but added that he encourages anyone, even if they don't join a team, who is in the 7 1/2 mile radius from the Colonial Williamsburg Information Center to take whatever time they can afford to document bird sightings in their yard or bird feeder and report them to him along with info regarding the area covered. The Count takes place from midnight Dec. 14 to midnight on the 15th.
- Geoff announced the slate of nominees for the Board for 2015. They are as follows:
 - President – Geoff Giles
 - Vice-President (Programs)- Cheryl Jacobson
 - Co-Vice Presidents (The Flyer)- Shirley Devan and Judy Jones
 - Treasurer- Ann Carpenter
 - Secretary- Cathy Millar
 - Member-at-Large- Jan Lockwood
 - Member-at-Large- Jeanette Navia

Geoff asked if there were any nominations from the floor to which there were none. He then asked for a vote. The slate was unanimously elected by the members without further discussion.

- Geoff spoke of the many years that Fred Blystone had so admirably been the editor of The Flyer. Fred was not present.
- Geoff reported the upcoming year's Committee Chairpersons who are appointed. They are:
 - Field Trips- Jim Corliss. Jan Lockwood will be filling in while Jim deals with a family emergency.
 - Records and Bird Counts- Bill Williams
 - Library Liaison- Lee Schuster
 - Refreshment Co-Chairs- Jan Lockwood and Ruth Gordon
 - Membership/Webmaster- Jeanette Navia
 - Historian- Tom McCary
- Geoff called on Tom to come forward to present to the out-going Historian, Cynthia Long, who has given the post many years of dedicated service, a lovely pillow that reflected her love of gardening and native plants.

Upcoming Events:

- **Field Trips:**
Jan Lockwood, filling in for Jim Corliss, reminded folks to pick up the handout of Calendar of Events for Nov-Jan, 2014-15. Included are:
December 14, Sunday: Christmas Bird Count replaces monthly field trip.
January 24, Saturday: Trip to Eastern Shore led by Fletcher Smith to study and band Saltmarsh Sparrows. Request was made for volunteers with hip boots to flush the sparrows from the marsh.
January 25, Sunday: Birding by boat tour of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and mouth of the bay led by Bill Williams. Further information will be forthcoming.
February: Field trip to the Islands of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel led by Bill Williams is in the planning stage.
- **Programs:**
Cheryl Jacobson reported on upcoming programs for WBC meetings.
January 21: Fletcher Smith, research biologist at Center of Conservation Biology, will report on his research with Saltmarsh Sparrows.
February: Pearl Beamer from Sacred Friends Wildlife Rehabilitation Inc. will give a presentation on their work.
May: W&M students who have received grants from the WBC will give presentations on their research.

Program: Cheryl Jacobson introduced tonight's speaker: Dr. Dan Cristol who presented and discussed selected portions of the video, *The Ordinary Extraordinary Junco*. While earning his PhD, Dan had worked with Professor Ellen Ketterson who produced this documentary. He had participated in the early stages of the ongoing research on the Junco which has lasted 30 years to date. Dan shared with the audience how they can access the rest of the film at home.

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

Geoff adjourned the meeting at 9:08pm.

Refreshments were provided by Judy Jones and Patty Maloney

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary Williamsburg Bird Club
November 20, 2014