

Williamsburg Bird Club

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Andrew's Hall, Room 101, W&M, 7:30 pm

Attendance: 42

President's Remarks:

- President Geoff Giles opened the meeting and greeted the gathering. He announced that most of the meeting would be held after the program tonight as the speaker had a long drive home.
- Geoff welcomed 4 visitors as well as 3 from the Department of Biological Sciences at ODU (tonight's speaker and 2 other students). Geoff also acknowledged the presence of members of the W&M Bird Club.
- Geoff enquired about local sightings of recent winter arrivals. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Yellow-rumped Warblers and White-throated Sparrows were reported. Shirley Devan was surprised to see a hatch year Blue Grossbeak still hanging around. Another member noted a Downy Woodpecker spent one of the first cold nights of the season in her bluebird house. Another saw a Ruby-throated Hummingbird today.
- Geoff asked for a show of hands of how many members post their sightings on eBird and encouraged those that haven't to look into it.

Program:

Cheryl Jacobson introduced tonight's speaker, Andrew Arnold, a second year master's student studying at Dr. Eric Walter's avian ecology lab at Department of Biological Sciences at Old Dominion University. The presentation was titled *Forested Stopover Habitat Use by Migratory Land Birds during Fall Migration*. He described the process of by which 48 sites on Delmarva Peninsula and Southern VA was investigated for quality of habitat for refueling and resting. The goal is to identify the factors which most heavily influence the quality and use of a site by migrants. The resulting information will be useful to conservationists and policy makers.

Announcements:

- After Geoff had asked how many keep a year list of Virginia birds, he announced an upcoming opportunity to add many more by going on off-shore pelagic birding trips being scheduled this winter. Matt Anthony was asked for further details and reported that the trips, lasting from 6am-7pm, will be leaving from Lynnhaven Inlet on Dec. 12th and Jan. 2nd at a cost of \$165-\$195. Matt gave some examples of the great birds that may be seen.
- Betty Peterson reported that this coming Saturday the second Annual Litter and Recycling Expo will be held at the James City County Rec Center and has fliers for those interested.
- Geoff reported that Feeder Watch starts November 14th and urged members to participate.
- Geoff reminded the assembly that annual election of WBC officers will be held the next meeting. Anyone who wishes to be nominated or to nominate someone else should contact him. Otherwise current officers are willing to continue to serve.

- Geoff announced that a book exchange will be held at the next (also the last) meeting of the year. The proceeds will go toward one of the club sponsored scholarships.

Upcoming Events:

Field Trips:

Jim Corliss, Field Trip Coordinator, reported that 44 species were seen on the recent field trip at Newport News Park. Next field trip will be:

- **Saturday, November 21:** Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia Beach. Details forthcoming.

Programs:

Cheryl Jacobson, Program Coordinator, reported on the upcoming, last program of the year.

- **November:** Patti Reum will address concerns regarding the American Kestrel population and describe the Kestrel Nest Box Project sponsored by the VSO and what individuals and bird clubs can do to get Kestrel nest boxes installed in their area. A nest box will be donated to our chapter.

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

Geoff adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

Refreshments were provided by Jan Lockwood.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary Williamsburg Bird Club
October 22, 2015