

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the
Williamsburg Bird Club**
September 21, 2016
Andrews Hall, Room 101, W&M, 7:00 pm

Attendance: 48

President's Remarks:

- President Geoff Giles opened the meeting and welcomed the assembly.
- There were 2 visitors (Master Naturalists) and no new members
- Geoff enquired about interesting bird sightings. Hummingbirds were still present but lack of sightings of males suggested they'd begun migrating. Black-throated Blue Warblers, Red-eyed Vireos, White-eyed Vireos, Pine Warblers and Common Yellowthroats were noted. Dan Cristol reported that a Cape May Warbler flew into a campus building and a Marsh Wren got stuck in a campus building courtyard.
- Geoff asked Dan Cristol to report about a birding event to be held in this same room tomorrow evening at 7pm. Dan told us that the W&M Student Bird Club had organized and paid for the rights to show the film, *The Messenger*, here at Andrews Hall. Our Williamsburg Bird Club has agreed to cosponsor it. It is a sobering movie that addresses the various problems that songbirds face and interviews researchers that are working on these problems. Arrangement for parking passes is being looked into. Further donations to defray student expenses will be accepted tomorrow.
- Geoff asked Cheryl Robinson to introduce tonight's speaker

Program: Cheryl Robinson, VP and Program Chairperson, introduced tonight's speaker, Dr. Shawn Dash, whose presentation is titled Aviation Reproduction Behavior. As an entomologist, Dr. Dash has been involved in training of Master Naturalists for 2 years. He is an assistant professor in the Dept. of Biological Sciences at Hampton University. Dr. Dash earned his PhD in Biological Sciences at the University of Texas, Masters in Entomology at Louisiana State University and undergrad work at University of Delaware where Douglas Tallamy was an advisor. Cheryl has asked him to do a presentation on breeding birds as related to the current activities regarding collecting data for the Breeding Bird Atlas.

Dr. Dash discussed the entirety of a bird's life cycle and emphasized the importance of putting birding activity in context. He talked about examples of specific of breeding behavior in an ecological evolutionary context and how it relates to the codes in the Breeding Bird Atlas. He also urged more of us to become involved in collecting the BBA data.

Announcements:

- Geoff reported that further ongoing discussion regarding the Breeding Bird Atlas will be deferred to another meeting.

- Geoff asked Jan Lockwood to give a brief progress report on the breeding activity of this year's bluebirds. Jan reported that it was a much better year for bluebirds than the previous one. This year there was a count of 611 bluebirds on the bluebird trails (a 75% increase over last year). 85% of the eggs laid hatched and 78% of those fledged. She reported that the 2 holed bird houses really worked as planned. She thanked the volunteers who tolerated the hot sticky summer weather to monitor the bluebird houses.
- Geoff announced that there will be a book sale at the November meeting. Members are encouraged to bring in bird books.

Field Trips: Jim Corliss, Field Trip Coordinator, was absent due to work obligations. Cheryl Jacobson, reported that he is working on field trips for this coming autumn. Geoff reported that there will be a boat trip on the Chesapeake Bay this winter.

Programs: Cheryl Jacobson, VP and Program Chair Coordinator, reported on the upcoming programs.

- **Wednesday, October 19:** Bill Williams will deliver a lecture on hummingbirds. The recipients of this year's Nature Camp scholarships will give a short summary about their experiences.
- **Wednesday, November 16:** Kendall Thomas from Busch Gardens will do a program celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty. She will probably be bringing a variety of hawks and owls.
- **January, Wednesday 18, 2017:** Bob Schamerhorn is delivering a presentation on raptors.

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

Geoff adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Refreshments were served by Jeanette Navia and Barbara Neis.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary Williamsburg Bird Club,
September 22, 2016