

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the
Williamsburg Club**
October 19, 2016
Andrews Hall, Room 101, W&M, 7:00 pm

Attendance: 69

President's Remarks:

President Geoff Giles opened the meeting and welcomed the assembly.

- Geoff started the proceedings with the three recipients of the Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarship giving reports about their experiences this summer. He asked Judy Jones to introduce them. Jessie Nelson, currently a senior at Jamestown High School who majored in meteorology at this his 4th year at camp and Bridget Wilson currently an 8th grader at Hornsby Middle School who majored in ornithology gave PowerPoint presentations. Audrey Root currently a sophomore at Jamestown High School talked about her experience majoring in ornithology with the focus being on reproduction and mating. Geoff noted that these scholarships are one of the things that our dues and donations support.

Program: Cheryl Robinson, VP and Program Chairperson, was absent. Judy Jones, Vice President, introduced tonight's speaker, Bill Williams. 39 years ago, Bill was one of the founders of our Bird Club. Among his other accomplishments is that he has also founded the Coastal VA Wildlife Observatory, has been past president of the VSO, Chairman of VA Avian Records Committee, founder and director of the Kiptopeke Hawk Watch and founding member of Historic VA Land Conservancy. Bill presented a fascinating illustrated program on the many species of hummingbirds in our Western Hemisphere. He discussed natural history, anatomy, folk lore and many interesting facts about these remarkable birds.

Announcements:

- Geoff noted that Deane Gordon took on the considerable undertaking of assembling a purple martin house donated by the Backyard Birder. It will probably be set up at the New Kent Forestry Center unless a better area is found.
- Geoff reported that a bird book sale will be held at our November meeting and asked members to bring used books to be sold at a minimal price. The proceeds will be donated to the bird club.
- Geoff announced that there is an upcoming election for next year's officers. He asked Shirley Devan to give a report from the nominating committee. Shirley reviewed the club's bylaws that apply to our elections. The members of this year's nominating committee are Judy Jones, Cheryl Jacobson and Shirley Devan. The slate of nominees will be presented to the membership in the November newsletter and at the November club meeting. She was pleased to report that the nominating committee has just about finished finding people willing to fill the available open offices. She noted that next year is our club's 40th anniversary and that it is most fitting that Bill Williams who was our first president in 1977 has agreed to run as our 40th president in 2017. A separate committee will be established for planning the club's 40th anniversary. Shirley thanked

the members of the nominating committee and those who have already responded affirmatively to serve on the Board or as Committee Chairpersons. The new Board will take effect on January 1st.

- Geoff noted that we have a celebrity in our midst. 96 year old Dorothy Whitfield was featured in the VA Gazette's *Williamsburg's Next Door Neighbors* supplement.

Field Trips: Jim Corliss, Field Trip Coordinator, reported on upcoming trips.

- **Saturday, November 19:** Grandview Nature Preserve led by Ernie Miller of the Hampton Bird Club and is very familiar with the preserve.
- **Sunday, December 18:** Our club's 40th Christmas Bird Count
Jim reported that otherwise a field trip in December is questionable depending on other area bird counts, etc.
Geoff noted that in January, we will have our annual boat trip on the Chesapeake Bay.

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

- **Wednesday, November 16:** Kendall Thomas from Busch Gardens will present a program about the Migratory Bird Treaty celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. She will be bringing owls and raptors.
- **No meeting/program for December**
- **Wednesday, January 18, 2017:** Bob Schamerhorn will give an illustrated program on raptors.
- **Wednesday, February 15:** Dr. Lesley Bulluck, Assistant Professor at VCU's Dept. of Biology and Board member of VSO, will speak on her long term nest box study of Prothonotary warblers. This will be a joint meeting with the Master Naturalists.

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

Geoff adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Refreshments were served by Jan Lockwood and Shirley Devan.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary Williamsburg Bird Club,
October 21, 2016

