

## **Williamsburg Bird Club**

*Wednesday, November 16, 2016*

Andrews Hall, Room 101, W&M, 7:00 pm

**Attendance:** 65

### **President's Remarks:**

President Geoff Giles opened the meeting and greeted the assembly. He welcomed 1 visitor and 2 new members.

He noted that the membership was seated uncharacteristically closer to the front of the room tonight in anticipation of tonight's feathered guests!

**Program:** Cheryl Jacobson, VP and Program Chairperson, introduced tonight's speaker, Kendall Thomas, and her assistant, Susie Hoffenberger (? Spelling), from Busch Gardens, who have brought 5 feathered friends. Kendall has worked at Busch Gardens for 7 years.

Kendall began her presentation by stating that one of her goals at Busch Gardens this year was to talk to guests about the Migratory Bird Act Treaty which is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. She reviewed with us the history of the Migratory Bird Act. Of note was that all feathers that are gathered from their birds at BG are sent to the US Fish & Wildlife who in turn give the eagle feathers to Native Americans to use in their cultural activities. Owl pellets are shared with local high schools for dissection. She also reviewed various ways we can help birds. Of note was not discarding biodegradable things like banana peels and apple cores along the roadside which attracts rodents and in turn predators like owls and hawks which puts them at risk of being struck by vehicles.

She and Susie then brought out and shared with the gathering the history and personal life stories of a Screech Owl, Barn Owl, Kestrel, Harris's Hawk and from Australia, a Tawny Frogmouth. Many photos were taken as the birds were brought close to our members and at times even flew over our heads.

### **Announcements:**

- **WBC Board Elections:** Geoff noted that it was time for our annual elections for the WBC Board and asked Shirley Devan who chaired the Nominating Committee to present the candidates. Shirley acknowledged the nominating committee members being Cheryl Jacobson, Judy Jones and herself. She presented the slate of 7 officers to serve on the Board in 2017 as follows:
  - President - Bill Williams
  - Vice-President, Programs - Cheryl Jacobson
  - Vice-President, Newsletter – Judy Jones
  - Treasurer – Ann Carpenter
  - Secretary – Cathy Millar
  - Member-at-Large – Gary Carpenter
  - Member –at-Large – Deane Gordon

There were no nominations from the floor. Lucile Kossodo made the motion that this slate of officers be approved. Bob Long seconded the motion. The slate was unanimously elected by the members without further discussion.

Shirley announced the club's committee chairpersons who are not elected but graciously volunteer to serve. They are as follows:

- Past President – Geoff Giles
- Field Trips – Shirley Devan
- Bird Counts – Jim Corliss
- Records – Bill Williams
- Library Liaison – Lee Schuster
- Refreshments – Ruth Gordon
- Membership – Lisa Nickel
- Webmistress – Jeanette Navia
- Historian – Tom McCary

Shirley thanked the 17 people who make this bird club work. She also recognized the people who lead our bird walks and field trips and those who do our programs as making our club what it is and whose activities our nearly 200 members enjoy.

Cheryl added that we would not be able to do what we do without the support of W&M and Dan Cristol.

- Cheryl Jacobson presented Geoff Giles with a gift from the club for everything he has done the last 3 years as the club's president. Geoff thanked everyone for the privilege of serving with the Board. He then asked each of the current board and committee chairperson members to stand and be recognized for the work that they do.
- Geoff asked Bill Williams to talk about the upcoming Christmas Bird Count. Bill reported that this will be the 40<sup>th</sup> year that our club has participated in the 117<sup>th</sup> year of the longest running citizen science birding project. The count will be held on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. There are many sectors that still need participation. He said that even if you don't participate on a sector team, one can do so from one's home as long as it is within the count circle of 7 ½ miles from CW's information center. He asked that we keep track of the time that we count and that if we travel that we log the time and distance. The info is turned into the National Audubon Society to establish a scientific grid. He said to feel free to ask if help is needed. He reported that he is in conversation with the homeowners association of Season's Trace to participate. He asked that if we live in a similar neighborhood with a homeowners association, that we consider doing likewise as it is a huge help. The goal as usual is 100 participants. We fell a little short last year. The benchmark is 100+ species.
- Geoff called on Nick Newberry who had news to share with us. Nick reminded us of the screening of the documentary of *The Messenger* that was cosponsored by our club 1 ½ months ago. The film had included the problem of the high mortality rate of birds crashing into windows. He and some other students had done research where this happened most often on campus. They submitted a grant and that grant was received 1 ½ weeks ago to give them money

to put film on the windows of the Muscarelle Museum. He thanked us for our support in writing emails to the director expressing our supportive concern. The director had received close to 100 emails. Nick has samples of the film that he will show us at the end of the meeting if we want to use it on the windows of our homes.

- Geoff thanked the members who'd brought books for tonight's book sale at the end of the meeting. All the proceeds go to the good things our club does like the research grants we give to W&M students. The unsold books will be donated to the W&M Bird Club.
- Ruth Gordon reported that tonight's refreshments were donated by Jeanette Navia, Patty Maloney and Judy Jones.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Field Trips:** Jim Corliss, Field Trip Coordinator was absent. Shirley reported for him. She announced this upcoming field trip Saturday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, to Grandview Nature Preserve in Hampton. There will be carpooling at Colony Square Shopping Square on Jamestown Road. Departure time is 7 am.

**Programs:** Cheryl Robinson, VP and Program Chairperson, reported on the following upcoming programs:

- **December:** No meeting/program.
- **Wednesday, January 18, 2017:** Bob Schamerhorn will give an illustrated program on raptors. Sheryl has asked him to include info and pictures about their breeding habits since some members are working on the Breeding Bird Atlas.
- **Wednesday, February 15:** Dr. Lesley Bulluck, Assistant Professor at VCU's Dept. of Biology and board member of VSO, will talk about Prothonotary Warblers and what they eat and the impact of toxic algae.

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

Geoff adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Millar, Secretary Williamsburg Bird Club  
November 20, 2016