

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board  
Williamsburg Bird Club  
Room 113, Human Services Bldg.  
5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg, VA  
Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Board Member Attendees: Fred Blystone, Jennifer Boag, Shirley Devan, Jeanette Navia, Charles Rend, Geoff Giles

Chair Attendees: John Fennell, Jeanette Navia, Joe Piotrowski

Board Members Absent: Bob Long, Lee Schuster, Barb Streb, Bill Williams

Member Attendees: Ann Carpenter, Mary Anne Fennell

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Shirley passed out copies of the Constitution and By-Laws and welcomed new board members Jennifer Boag and Ann Carpenter and guest Jean Rend.

Secretary's Report:

- The Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- Chuck reported that expenditures were greater than income last year because of the CDR Feeder Project initiative and the Carrot Tree luncheon after the Christmas Bird Count.
- Shirley mentioned that the gift to VSO (Peru) was in memory of Peggy Opengari.
- Geoff mentioned that the Club made \$222 on the CBBT Field Trip because it cost less than we had budgeted for. Shirley noted that the Department of Game & Inland Fisheries online newsletter editor wants to include our CBBT trip information in their newsletter.
- Fred expressed concern that the Club's FY10 expenditures were greater than its income.
- Shirley and Chuck mentioned that the Club still had shirts and hats to sell which would bring in additional income in FY11.
- Chuck mentioned that the Club had not raised its membership dues since 2004.
- Fred reported that within the next two years the cost of producing the newsletter and mailing hard copies will possibly exceed the amount of dues paid by those members who pay for individual memberships and get hard copies mailed to them.
- A discussion ensued among board members about ways to reduce our costs and/or increase our income. For example, we could produce six newsletters a year instead of twelve. The discussion concluded with Shirley asking Chuck and Fred to make a recommendation at the next board meeting regarding the dues structure for FY12.
- Board members discussed a request the Club has received for a donation to the Virginia Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program and decided to make a gift of \$100 this year.

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- Board members discussed all Club donations made in FY10 and decided to continue giving at the same level to the same organizations. The Club will continue to give three ornithology research grants and two Nature Camp scholarships, but will not make gifts to VSO-Peru and CVWO as they were one-time donations.

### Committee Reports:

- A. Newsletter: Fred reported that it costs about \$100 a month to produce the newsletter. He said we could discontinue the June issue if we needed to reduce expenditures in this area. Discussion about this idea ensued with the result that the board felt the June issue was important as an historic record since it contains spring bird count information. etc. and was also an important outreach for all members.

Fred thanked Geoff for the articles he has written and urged everyone to read them. He also thanked Jeanette for her book reviews.

- B. Programs: Joe gave the group details about upcoming programs:

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|----------------|---|
| 1. February 16 | Bill Williams, Birding Trip to Brazil's Atlantic Coastal Rainforest                                   |
| 2. March 16    | Bryan Watts, Raptor Conservation in Virginia  |
| 3. April 20    | Sergio Harding, Bird Conservation Activities by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. |
| 4. May 18      | Likely to be 3 students who received research grants from the Club                                    |
| 5. Sept. 21    | TBD   |
| 6. Oct. 19     | Robert Ake (Big Year)   |
| 7. Nov. 16     | TBD   |

He is still trying to secure the “owl person” Joanne Andrews knows to present a program. He is also working to book Ken Conger, a professional photographer who works in Alaska and takes spectacular photos of birds and records their calls.

- C. Field Trips: Geoff gave the group details about upcoming field trips:

1. February 19 Dutch Gap Conservation Area led by Geoff Giles

Geoff said he saw a great variety of ducks on a recent trip including Pintails, American Widgeons, and Coots. He also observed Osprey, Snipe, Great Blue Heron, Woodpeckers and Bald Eagles. Dutch Gap features platforms which look out over marsh land.

2. March 19 New Kent Forestry Center led by Shirley Devan and Susan Powell

The Center is not open to the public on a regular basis but is holding a public day on March 19 and has asked the Club to lead a bird walk. There is a swamp trail. So many Bobwhite Quail live in the area that hunting is allowed.

3. April 16 Dismal Swam Trip led by Alex Minarik

4. May 21 Chickahominy Riverfront Park

The Club will be leading a bird walk as part of “Park Day” on May 21. Joe suggested we ask Inga Curtis who lives across the river from the park, to allow us to bird her property.

5. August 20 Craney Island

Fred suggested the possibility of planning a field trip to Curles Neck Farm to coincide with a walk sponsored by The Richmond Audubon Society, or, if we wanted to try and have a separate field trip, we could contact the RAS and see who would need to ask to get permission to go to Curles Neck. He also mentioned that 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge Park was a great place to see warblers and that John Coe and Aaron Boes could be good contacts.

D. Membership: Jeanette reported that we have 3 new members.

E. Records and Bird Counts: Bill Williams was not present to report.

F. Refreshments: Shirley reported that Barb Streb has volunteers lined up for the rest of the year.

G. Library Liaison: Lee was not present to report.

H. Adopt-a –Highway: No report.

I. Historian: No report.

Old Business

1. Nature Camp Scholarships:

- The Evaluation Committee was Alex Minarik, Mary Jane Fennell, Jeanette Navia, Lee Schuster, and Gary Carpenter.
- The Bird Club received nine applications by the January 15 deadline.
- The Evaluation Committee reviewed and ranked the nine applicants.
- The top two applicants were Justine Koleszar (E) and Katie Niebuhr (D).
- Shirley contacted both finalists on Monday, January 31.
- Katie Niebuhr had already accepted a scholarship from the Greensprings Garden Club.
- Shirley contacted Chuck Rend to get the name of the third ranked applicant-Emily Council.
- Shirley contacted Emily who expressed gratitude about receiving the scholarship.
- Shirley sent letters to each of the unsuccessful applicants on Wednesday, February 2, 2011.
- Shirley sent letters of Justine Koleszar and Emily Council to advise them to submit their applications to Nature Camp and to advise the Nature Camp administration that they had

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received a scholarship from the Williamsburg Bird Club. Chuck will send a check to Nature Camp after the two finalists have sent in their applications.

2. Parking on Campus for Bird Club meetings
  - Permits worked out well at the last Club meeting.
  - We need to find out if we can continue to use permits or if we need to find a new meeting space.
  - Shirley mentioned we might be able to meet at the Interpretive Center at Freedom Park once it is built. If we do some work for the Center, we may be able to use the meeting space for free.
3. Jeanette's yoga teacher, Jennifer ?, would like the Club to offer a program for teenagers. Shirley suggested they join the bird walk she is doing for the Master Naturalists at York River State Park on February 20 at 1:00 p.m.
4. Fred photographed members of the board.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. by the president, Shirley Devan.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer A. Boag, Secretary  
Williamsburg Bird Club