

**Minutes of the Board
Williamsburg Bird Club**

January 27, 2025

Conducted via Zoom by Ann Carpenter/Presided by President Nancy Barnhart

Board Member Attendees: Nancy Barnhart, Mary Ellen Hodges, Ann Carpenter, Cathy Millar, Patty Maloney, Donna Benson, Deborah Humphries, Cheryl Jacobson

Board Members Absent: none

Committee Chair Attendees: Jeanette Navia, George Martin, Cathy Flanagan, Nancy Barnhart, Lee Schuster, Gary Carpenter, Shirley Devan, Patty Maloney, Cheryl Jacobson

Committee Chairs Absent: Scott Hemler

The meeting was called to order by Nancy Barnhart at 3 pm. A quorum of the Executive Board was present.

Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar:

Cathy had submitted, via email, the draft of the Nov 21, 2024 Board minutes twice for review and correction. Minor corrections had been made on the first draft. Ann Carpenter moved that the second draft be approved and Deborah Humphries seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Cathy will submit the minutes for posting on WBC's website.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter:

Ann provided a spreadsheet detailing the income and expenses for Club Year 2024.

Below is a summary of the End of the Year Assets and the Current Assets as of January 25.

**Williamsburg Bird Club
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2024**

	<u>Total</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Truist CD 8470003677139	0.00
Truist Checking Account	7,108.13
Truist Money Market	<u>8,828.97</u>
Total Bank Accounts	15,937.10
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	<u>60.00</u>
Total Current Assets	15,997.10
Other Assets	
Bird Club Fund in Wmbg Comm Fund	<u>13,157.24</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>29,154.34</u>

Williamsburg Bird Club
Statement of Financial Position
As of January 25, 2025

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Truist Checking Account	8,187.54
Truist Money Market	9,063.97
Total Bank Accounts	\$17,251.51
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	45.00
Total Current Assets	\$17,296.51
Other Assets	
Bird Club Fund in Wmbg	
Comm Fund	13,157.24
TOTAL ASSETS	\$30,453.75

Club Year Income and Expenses Summary:

Our total ordinary income for Club Year 2024 is \$13,169.11 (including \$2,480 of income for Bill's book). Due to an anonymous donation and a donation from Dr. Daniel Cristol of \$650, dues and other member donations for 2024 (\$7,100) exceeded those collected in 2023: (\$5,895). Dr. Cristol's donation was from his proceeds for his articles in the Virginia Gazette. Ann plans to make a proposal that we fund an additional Student Grant in 2025.

Expenses were \$12,843.60. There was a balance of Ordinary Income versus Ordinary Expenses of \$325.51. When income and expenses from the Williamsburg Community Foundation investment fund and other interest are included, the total balance was \$1,525.46.

As noted in previous reports, we are carrying forward an amount of \$729.15 to fund an additional Nature Camp Scholarship in 2026 or later.

Ann added that to date we've collected \$1,245 in dues. Many have not paid yet and need reminding.

Discussion of club donations: Nancy reviewed with us the club donations we typically make that need to be discussed for renewal this year. They are as follows: Center for Conservation Biology - \$500; Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory -\$200; Community Cloud Forest Conservation - \$500; Historic VA Land Conservancy - \$250; VABBA2 - \$1,000 (final contribution); Williamsburg Regional Library - \$200; VSO membership- \$25; Purple Martin Conservation Assoc membership- \$150; and Purple House Maintenance - \$375. There was discussion as to whether membership donations to the Conservation Fund was used for purple martin projects. It was noted that last year's donation did just about cover that need. Cathy Millar introduced whether we should consider donating to Dr. Swaddle's Institute of Integrated Conservation (ICC) to support a foreign student in the program. Mary Ellen noted that the ICC is involved with mammals, etc. and we would want to make sure the student was in a bird related project. A donation to ICC was tabled until we knew more. No one objected to the proposed donations. Patty Maloney moved that they be approved; Cathy Millar seconded. Unanimous approval.

Ann introduced a proposal for a 4th grant this year to W&M ornithology students. Dr. Cristol has stated there are a lot of worthy students this year. Ann noted that the money donated from Wild Birds Unlimited goes to ornithology grants because historically money once earned from an annual birdseed

sale was earmarked for these grants. That money along with Dan Cristol's donation of \$650 from his Gazette articles, and membership donations for grants, pays for 3.6 of a 4th grant leaving only \$236 needed. The Board unanimously agreed to make a 4th grant. Ann will contact Dr. Cristol.

Ann added that \$729.15 has been allocated toward Nature Camp scholarships in addition to the 3 (2 Bill Williams & 1 Millin) already sponsored. We may be able to add a 4th in 2026. Cost per scholarship this year is \$1,050.

Nature Camp Scholarships Chairperson - Lee Schuster, reported this year's students have sent in their applications and are waiting for approval. She will follow through with this group of students. In the autumn, she'll step down and hand her position over to Patty Maloney.

Membership/Webmaster – Jeanette Navia: Jeanette reported that 42 members have renewed to date. 126 members still need to renew. We have 5 new members since November.

The Flyer – Mary Ellen Hodges, Vice President (Editor): Mary Ellen reported that she's gotten a good number of contributions for February's issue. She's been compiling a complete monthly index for *The Flyer* through November 2024. Jeanette will be posting it on our web site. Mary Ellen also enquired whether/how we could share info with our membership regarding a free webinar about Local Ordinances for Bird-Safe Buildings being sponsored by Center for Biological Diversity. It was agreed that she would send an email to the membership with the information.

Liaison to CDR/Assistant Editor – Gary Carpenter: Gary reported that to date for 2025, he'd brought 1 bag of seeds and a suet block to CDR. Still no word about when they are moving. Gary also reported they'd discovered that Staples was now using heavier paper in the self-service copiers that ended up requiring a second stamp to send the current 16 newsletters. So, they are now submitting the newsletter electronically to be printed which is done on light-weight paper. Saves money and time!

Programs – Patty Maloney, Vice President: Patty Maloney reported the following:

- **February 19**: Bill Williams's presentation on "The Birdlife of Virginia's Colonial Historic Triangle: Then and Now."
- **March 19**: Andrew Rapp's presentation on "Shorebirds of Virginia."
- **April 16**: Presentations by W&M ornithology grant recipients.
- **May 21**: Dixie Summers on Birding in Chile

Members-at-Large – Deborah Humphries and Donna Benson: Donna mentioned concern about avian flu and how it will affect how we conduct upcoming bird monitoring programs. Shirley shared info she'd found from doing a lot of research about avian flu. It was agreed by all that because the CDC and other government agencies are, for the time, being muted by the Trump administration, our club needs to step up and stay informed and share sensible advice with our membership. Under the current situation, non-profit organizations will be critical in keeping the public informed. Nancy volunteered to write something about it for the March newsletter. Shirley has been communicating with Dr Swaddle, who has agreed to being referred to as an expert, and has written a bulleted list of precautions that can be put in *The Flyer*. Cathy Millar remarked this is such an important issue that we should also share the info with the membership via email as well.

Past President – Cheryl Jacobson: Cheryl had wanted it noted that the late Geoff Giles had donated a scope which she has passed on to Scott Hemler to be used in NQP bird walks.

Cheryl and Mary Ellen encouraged us to contact our politicians to approve the bill that will provide a grant to VIMS to study the state of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. Links to do so have been shared with the membership.

Bird Walks – Scott Hemler: Not present, but Nancy reported that NQP monthly bird walks are continuing as scheduled.

Field Trips – George Martin, Field Trip Coordinator: George reported the following:

- **Saturday, February 15, 2025** – Colonial Parkway, Yorktown Battlefield, and Yorktown Beach. Rexanne Bruno will be the leader.
- **Saturday, March 15, 2025** – Machicomoco State Park. Nancy will be the leader.

Bird Counts/Liaison to VSO – Shirley Devan: Shirley is working to have the Christmas Bird Count results ready for the February newsletter. She's waiting for clarification from Rexanne Bruno on the ID of the hummingbirds. Current count is 112. There were 132 participants this year; more than last year. Spring Bird Count will be Sunday, April 27th.

VSO is celebrating achieving the goal of \$300,000 for the VABBA2. There may be extra funds to add more features to the website.

Library Liaison/Refreshments – Cathy Flanagan: Cathy reported that she's had no problem getting folks to sign up for refreshments.

Historian – Patty Maloney: Patty submitted articles about the first WBC Christmas Bird Count to W&M library. Shirley added that the 2024 CBC was our 48th since Bill Williams and Bryan Taber conducted the first one in 1977. Might consider using those articles in our 50th celebration.

Records/Liaison to CVWO – Nancy Barnhart: Nothing to add.

New and Continuing Business

Book Signing: Bill is willing to do one. Need to decide when and where. Nancy is considering asking the Williamsburg Regional Library for the use of the anteroom to the auditorium. Nancy will work on the specifics with Bill.

VSO Outreach: Nancy updated plans for the VSO sponsored mini field trip intended to bring birders from outside our area to the Greensprings Interpretive Trail. Date will be Saturday, April 26th and probably starting at 7:30 am. We will be hosting 2 groups of 15 guest birders. Deborah Humphries volunteered to lead one group.

(A few hours after this meeting, Nancy shared that the coordinator of the VSO mini field trips had not recognized that the 26th is also the Virginia Birding Big Day and is recommending that we not do it on the 26th. Because there are already so many other events in the spring, the autumn appears to be the best time.)

Bug Fest: Nancy reported on a Master Naturalist outreach program that has asked if we wanted a table to participate. It is heavy on family-oriented crafts and will entail a lot of commitment of time. So far, no interest has been expressed but Nancy will find out more and eventually put it out in an email.

Improve Zoom Experience: Nancy acknowledged that some Zoom attendees had been experiencing some problems at our membership meetings. She has acquired a mouse on her tablet that presenters can use to point to highlights in their slides. Also, plans to turn the podium so speaker is looking straight out at the audience and at the camera in the tablet. Ann proposed that we may need to have someone in person at the meeting to monitor the comments in live time to pass on the questions. We should also request the second available microphone to be available for that person to use for questions. We need to bring a supply of appropriate batteries.

Scanning Bill's Book: Nancy thanked Jeanette for suggesting relatively easy solutions to get Bill's book on-line. One was an A-PDF Flip Book Creator. Further discussion about other available software ensued. Final decisions are not needed until this autumn. Bill wants his book to be available in print only until then. Ann reported that we are \$500 away from having the cost of printing Bill's book paid.

Birds And Brunch: Nancy reported that she had agreed to lead an hour-long bird walk sponsored by James City County at Freedom Park on April 5th before she realized that she'd be in Arizona on that day. She will be asking for someone to substitute for her.

Next Board Meeting: Monday, April 21 at 3pm via Zoom was agreed upon.

Nancy Barnhart adjourned the meeting at 4:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary,
Williamsburg Bird Club
February 3, 2025