

**Minutes of the Board  
Williamsburg Bird Club**

July 14, 2025

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

**Board Member Attendees:** Nancy Barnhart, Mary Ellen Hodges, Ann Carpenter, Cathy Millar, Donna Benson, Deborah Humphries

**Board Members Absent:** Cheryl Jacobson, Patty Maloney

**Committee Chair Attendees:** Jeanette Navia, George Martin, Shirley Devan, Nancy Barnhart, Lee Schuster, Gary Carpenter

**Committee Chairs Absent:** Catherine Flanagan, Cheryl Jacobson, Scott Hemler, Patty Maloney

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

**Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar:** Cathy had submitted via email to the Board the draft of April 23, 2025 twice for review and correction. Mary Ellen moved that the minutes be approved and Gary seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Cathy will submit the minutes for posting to WBC's website.

**Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter:** Ann's report follows:

**Statement of Financial Position**

**As of July 7, 2025**

Assets

Current Assets

Bank Accounts

CD 5 month 8470004414727	6,000.00
Truist CD One Year 8470004376221	2,500.00
Truist CD Two Year 8470004376248	2,500.00
Truist Checking Account	1,912.66
Truist Money Market	<u>4,722.12</u>

**Total for Bank Accounts** **\$17,634.78**

Other Assets

Bird Club Fund in Wmbg Comm Fund	<u>13,478.93</u>
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**Total for Other Assets** **\$13,478.93**

**Total for Assets** **\$31,113.71**

Liabilities and Equity

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	<u>150.00</u>
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**Total for Accounts Payable** **\$150.00**

(meeting rooms for Sept-Oct)

Total Equity

\$30,963.71

Club Year Income and Expenses Summary:

Attached is a spreadsheet detailing the anticipated income and expenses for Club Year 2025. The cells and rows that are **BOLDED** are still estimates.

Our total ordinary income for Club Year 2025 is estimated to be \$11,978.06.

Ordinary Expenses projected through December 2025 is estimated to be \$9,535.74

Current Balance of Ordinary Income to Expense is: \$2,442.32. Minus some miscellaneous expenses, an estimation of outstanding expenses around \$1,000 and a donation from Wild Birds of \$730 is included in the calculation of this balance. Our five-month CD will mature in late September

Other notes:

1. Nature Camp Scholarships: As noted in previous reports, we are carrying forward funds with the hope that we can fund an additional Nature Camp Scholarship in the future. The carry-forward balance is \$681.49, reduced slightly due to the increased cost of Nature Camp. However, with the increasing costs of nature camp scholarships, we may never be able to fund an additional camper. At some point, the Club may just want to make a donation to Nature Camp.

2. Total proceeds from the sale of Bill's Book to date are \$3,400. The printing costs were \$2,995.

3. Research Grant/Scholarship funding:

The Bird Club received two large donations that directly affect the funding of the Research Grants. A recent PayPal \$500 donation came from Ford's Colony with the note "Ruth Beck Memorial Fund at William & Mary with thanks to Dan Cristol and students." Dan and the students helped Ford's Colony with their Canada Goose management plans. As you may remember, we were ready to support four grantees this year but only received grants applications from two students. Ann mentioned to Dan that we were going to discuss the Research Grants at this Board Meeting. Regarding the reduction in number of grant requests, Dan pointed out that some years there are fewer students studying birds because of faculty sabbaticals - he was on sabbatical this year and that also will reduce the number of students who apply next year possibly. He asked whether the \$599 limit was set in stone. He indicated two \$1000 grants would be an attractive option if it were possible.

Additionally, Dan made a \$650 donation this year from the proceeds for his Virginia Gazette articles. Although Dan didn't specify that his \$650 donation go towards the Research Grant Program, Ann thinks that would be appropriate. Alternatively, some of that donation could also be targeted as an offset to our meeting room rental costs. Several years ago, when Dan made a similar donation, he specified that it should be used to pay for the rental of the theater at the library as he was no longer able to get a room at William & Mary for the Bird Club meetings.

#### **Discussion following report:**

**Research Grant Funding:** After discussion about increased costs of living, etc. it was agreed to honor Dan Cristol's recommendation that we increase our funding from \$599 to \$1,000. Ann moved that we offer two \$1,000 grants to W&M students selected by their professors. The move was seconded by Mary Ellen. Unanimously passed. It was noted that, if desired, we can always review our offer the following year.

**The Flyer – Mary Ellen Hodges, Vice President (Editor):** Mary Ellen reported that she will send an email out to the membership second week of August for final request for input. Mary Ellen announced that she would like to hand the position of editor to another member in 2026. She'd be willing to do the January issue while the new person learns, with Mary Ellen's help, what goes into producing an issue. Mary Ellen added that she would continue as editor if a replacement isn't found. Board members unanimously told her what a spectacular job she has done these 6 years!

**Programs – Patty Maloney, Vice President:** Patty was absent and Nancy reported the following: The room at the Quarterpath Rec Center has been reserved for our Sept, Oct, and Nov meetings. September speaker will be Jamie Wick about birding in Costa Rica. Oct. and Nov. speakers to be determined. If anyone has any ideas, please contact Patty.

**Members-at-Large – Deborah Humphries and Donna Benson:** Donna commented on the depressing news about avian declines esp. the Osprey. Cathy Millar enquired if the membership should be encouraged to get involved again, as in writing representatives to put pressure on Omega Protein for overfishing menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. Nancy recommended asking Drs. John Swaddle and Bryan Watts for recommendations on talking points to express our concern and, perhaps, a type of compromise that would be acceptable. Nancy will contact Cheryl Jacobson, our Conservation Committee Chair. Mary Elle volunteered she'd be willing to help collect data.

#### **Committee Chairs**

**Membership/Webmaster – Jeanette Navia:** Jeanette reported that she'd removed 30 members who'd not renewed after being reminded via email twice. She added that this was normal with an average of about 30 members leaving and 30 joining each year.

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

**Saturday, Sept 20:** Birding at Jamestown Beach. George will be absent and needs a leader/recorder.

**Saturday, October 18:** Eastern Shore. Deborah Humphries agreed to lead the field trip. Nancy proposed that we advertise the sunrise count at Sunset Beach as an option for prospective participants on the field trip. Details to be determined.

**Bird Walks – Scott Hemler:** Scott was not present but Nancy reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday walks at New Quarter Park will continue through the summer and that they have been very popular with the public and people of all ages.

**Bird Counts – Shirley Devan:** Shirley reported that the 2025 Christmas Bird Count will be December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Librarian/ Library Liaison – Catherine Flanagan:** Cathy wasn't present but Nancy reported that she is up to date with the Williamsburg Regional Library and has had a good response from volunteers for refreshment.

**Records/Liaison to CVWO – Nancy Barnhart:** Nancy reported that CVWO and our WBC are considering partnering to make recommendations for the management of shorebirds at Hog Island during migration. The DWR budget has been cut and they are not sure what they can afford to do. No longer is a ranger living on Hog Island and will not be replaced. When recommendations are formulated about how to manage the property's water levels for shorebirds, they will be presented to the Board for our input. Phragmites is also a problem. Nancy has offered to monitor Hog Island on a regular basis.

**Conservation Committee/Past President – Cheryl Jacobson:** Cheryl was not present but had sent an update saying that the Purple Martins at Fords Colony are doing great. The pair at the Chickahominy that had laid 4 eggs abandoned them probably due to lack of food. The Bluebird population has also crashed at the Chickahominy Riverfront Park due to habitat changes. George Martin added that in June, the monitor at Fords Colony had counted 90 Purple Martins and 16 eggs.

**Nature Camp Scholarships – Lee Schuster:** Lee reported that 2 students have completed camp and 1 is still there. All are really enjoying it and will write an article to share their experiences for *The Flyer* before they go back to school. Patty Maloney will replace Lee in this position this October.

**Liaison to VSO – Shirley Devan:**

Shirley noted that our club has fulfilled its five- year financial commitment supporting the Second Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas. Currently VSO is starting to test its publication on the website to check that it works. Shirley and Deborah are volunteer testers but the committee is looking for volunteers who have had no previous experience with this publication. If interested, notify Shirley. It is hoped the website will be launched in early autumn.

Shirley also reported that VSO, at the request of DWR, is helping fund ongoing bird research. She was pleased to report that VSO has exceeded its fund-raising goals this year.

**Liaison to CDR/Assistant Editor – Gary Carpenter:** Gary gave an update that CDR believes it will be through moving in early 2026. He still has no idea what needs they will have in the new location or whether there will be a place for watching birds.

**New and Continuing Business**

**Phone for Two-Factor Authentication:** Nancy and Ann both researched the possibility of having a phone without service to facilitate access to Ann’s Zoom account when she is out-of-town. Both found there were no available options.

**Donation from Wild Birds Unlimited:** Discussion related to eliminating receipts from folks who were no longer WBC members ensued. Ann reported that WBU submitted receipts totaling \$1,400 from the last 6 months from 6 folks who did not renew their membership. WBU donates to us 5% of receipts, which in this case totals \$71. She has let WBU know about her concern but hasn’t heard back from them. A donation is coming from WBU from legit receipts totaling \$730. It was decided that Ann return to WBU the receipts from those 6 people and will continue to try to catch non-member- receipts. There is no other way of doing it as continually updating our membership list for WBU would be most difficult.

**Elections:** Nancy asked that we let her know if we plan to continue our roles on the Board. Nancy reported that she would like to have someone replace her as president but will continue if no one is found. She will be putting together a nominating committee by the end of the summer.

**Backup for Zoom:** Ann reported that she needs a back-up for hosting Zoom when she is out-of-town. Needs someone before Sept 17<sup>th</sup>. Shirley volunteered as an at-home Zoom person. Ann will coach her on the procedure.

**Request for Speaker for PEO:** Nancy reported that Philanthropic Educational Organization has requested speakers for May and July 2026. If anyone is interested, please let her know.

**Next Board Meeting:** Monday, October 20, 2025 at 3pm via Zoom

Nancy Barnhart adjourned the meeting at 4:25pm.

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Respectfully Submitted,  
Cathy Millar, Secretary,  
Williamsburg Bird Club,  
July 15, 2025