

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the
Williamsburg Bird Club**

May 18, 2016

Integrated Science Center, Room 1127, W&M, 7:00 pm

Attendance: 60

President's Remarks:

- President Geoff Giles opened the meeting and welcomed the gathering.
- There were 9 visitors, 7 of which were Nature Camp Scholarship Recipients and parents. There were no new members.
- Geoff enquired about interesting bird sightings. Bobolinks were reported to be in the field across from the Williamsburg Pottery on Richmond Rd. Many people were seeing an unusual number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in their yards and feeders this spring as they paused on their migratory route. Shirley Devan was thrilled to have the club's bird, the Red-headed Woodpecker, visit her feeder.
- Geoff asked Judy Jones to introduce this year's 3 recipients of the Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarship. They were Audrey Root of Jamestown High School, Bridget Wilson of Hornsby Middle School and Jesse Nelson of Jamestown High School. Judy had the recipients speak to their interest in Nature and all three have been to Nature Camp before. These young people will deliver a brief report of their experience this summer at our September meeting.
- Geoff noted that the Nature Camp scholarships were one of the programs our dues and fund raising projects supported. He took this time to thank Bill Williams for his contributions to our bird club over the years and that the name of the scholarship, Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarship, attests to this.
- Geoff asked Jim Corliss to briefly report on the Spring Bird Count just held this last Sunday which featured beautiful weather. Jim thanked all the participants. He said he is still tabulating reports but that the species count is somewhere between 135 and 140. That is a little less than the average of 149-150 over the last 15 years. Geoff thanked him for all the work that he put into the Count. He also acknowledged with gratitude Bill Williams who has so efficiently coordinated previous years of Spring Bird Counts.

Program: Cheryl Robinson, VP and Program Chairperson, introduced tonight's speaker, Bob Schamerhorn, whose presentation was titled, Our Wonderful Wood Warblers, in which he matched photos and videos that he'd taken of almost 30 species of warblers that are found in the East with their calls. Bob is a native of Virginia and studied art and design at Virginia Tech. He has been involved in birding associations since the age of 9 and attended Nature Camp as a youth. At age 12, he started taking pictures and now photography is his vocation and his photos have won many awards. As he showed spectacular pictures of each species, he also gave useful tips in recognizing each bird and its call.

Announcements:

- Geoff asked Judy Jones to quickly summarize how future applications for the Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarship have been streamlined. She described how the Williamsburg Bird Club, Native Plant Society and Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists have developed a joint application. This will make it easier for the three organizations to get the word out and reduce duplication of effort and stress for the applicants, the teachers writing references and the reviewers. Those students who are not selected can more readily apply to other participating Garden Clubs and organizations. The cost of attendance to Nature Camp next year will probably be \$900 per student.
- Geoff asked Shirley Devan to give a progress report on the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas 2 in this first spring of the 5 year project. Shirley encouraged the gathering to report all evidence of breeding behavior of all species whether one is currently in a priority block or not. There are several ways to put that info into the data base. An eBird subscriber can submit the data directly. Otherwise, one can send reports to Shirley. She encouraged us to take the time to track birds exhibiting breeding behavior back to where they are nesting.

Field Trips: Jim Corliss, Field Trip Coordinator, reported that the last officially club sponsored field trip for the season, the Highland County trip, was cancelled due to bad weather. He didn't like ending on such a dismal note and advised that members keep an eye on their emails for the possibility of some activity to be determined for June.

Programs: Cheryl Jacobson, VP and Program Coordinator, reported on upcoming programs.

- **Wednesday, September 21:** Scheduled speaker, Katie Fallon from WV, cancelled her engagement to speak about the Cerulean Warbler as she has decided that her children are too young for her to travel so far. She looks forward to addressing our club in the future.
- **Wednesday, October 19:** Bill Williams will deliver a lecture on hummingbirds.
- **Wednesday, November 16:** Kendall Thomas from Busch Gardens will do a program in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty. She will also bring some program birds.
- No meeting/program for December.

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

Geoff adjourned the meeting at 8:31 pm.

Refreshments were served by Judy Jones and Patty Maloney.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary Williamsburg Bird Club,
May 21, 2016