

**Williamsburg Bird Club**  
Wednesday, January 16, 2019  
W&M Integrated Science Center, Room 1127, 7:00 pm

**Attendance:** 62

**President's Remarks:** President Cheryl Jacobson welcomed the assembly and opened the meeting.

- There were no new members but there were 2 guests who were both Dan Cristol's grad students.
- Cheryl reinforced her message in President's Corner in the January issue of *The Flyer* about how we can help birds by using eco-friendly products by showing us a display of reusable items such as dishwasher safe produce bags, reusable straws (500 million straws are used daily in the US) and reusable beeswax food wraps.

**Announcements:**

- **Newsletter Deadline:** Cheryl reminded us that the newsletter deadline is the last Saturday of the month so please send contributions to Melinda by January 28<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged folks to send in articles about what they are doing to aid environmental conservation.
- **Parking:** Cheryl introduced Dan Cristol to address us about the new parking issue related to the construction of the new W&M art center. Our previously designated area has been fenced off. We can park in the adjacent lots to the west or find a place closer to the Science Center along Landrum Drive as long as not in a space designated for students. Our parking permit is good for faculty/staff spots.
- **2019 Dues:** Cheryl reminded us that the form for 2019 dues is in *The Flyer*. She noted that additional contributions can be made to Nature Camp scholarships, W&M grad student grants and money for purchasing seed for Child Development Resources.
- **Bird Walk Leader Recruitment:** Cheryl reported the need for recruiting new WBC bird walk leaders. She proposed that folks who are interested but hesitant for fear of inadequacy of bird identification skills try teaming up with an experienced leader until they feel comfortable doing it solo. She asked for those interested to contact her.
- **Purple Martin House:** Cheryl gave the floor to Deane Gordon who reported that Backyard Birder had donated a Purple Martin house. He assembled it and it has been erected at York River State Park. A volunteer is needed to monitor/maintain it.  
Cheryl noted that there has been discussion of forming a Purple Martin project in cooperation with Historic Rivers Chapter Master Naturalists. Purple Martins are a species at risk. She asked that anyone interested contact her.

**Field Trips:** Cheryl noted that the Chesapeake Bay Boat Trip has been canceled by the captain due to poor weather forecast. George Martin, Field Trip Coordinator, reported the following:

- **Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>:** The new date for the boat trip. George asked for those whose attendance had been confirmed to please inform him if they are still going. The trip will be reopened so he

invited folks to apply. Club members and W&M students get priority before attendance is opened to the public at large.

- **Saturday, February 16:** Dutch Gap led by Rose Ryan. More information will be coming regarding carpooling.

**Bird Counts/Walks:** Jim Corliss, Bird Count Chairperson, was absent. Cheryl reported that Jim will be submitting an article about the Christmas Bird Count results to *The Flyer*. She shared that the species count tied the record but that there were fewer quantities possibly because of the weather. There was one first, a Yellow-throated Warbler, seen in Kingsmill that had only been documented as a count week bird before.

**Refreshments:** Catherine Flanagan, Refreshments Chairperson: Refreshments were provided by Bill Vanzetta and Deane Shostak. Catherine reported that there are volunteers to bring refreshments for all the 2019 meetings.

**Programs:** Judy Jones, VP (Programs) reported on the following:

- **February 20<sup>th</sup>:** DGIF Bird Conservation Programs by Sergio Harding
- **March 20<sup>th</sup>:** The Biology of Feathers by Maureen Eiger

**Program:** Judy Jones, VP (Programs): Judy introduced the speaker, Bob Schamerhorn, who is an art and design graduate of Virginia Tech and Richmond resident. As a youngster, he was the recipient of the Lynchburg Bird Club Nature Camp Scholarship for 2 years. His talented wildlife photography has won him a great deal of recognition. He delivered his program about Atlantic Coastal Birds via a breathtaking audio visual presentation. It offered a great review of birds we might see on the upcoming boat trip.

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

Cheryl adjourned the meeting at 8:15 and refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Millar, Secretary Williamsburg Bird Club,  
January 20, 2019