

Williamsburg Bird Club
Wednesday, May 15, 2019
W&M Integrated Science Center, 7:00 pm

Attendance: 42 One new member present; no visitors.

President's Remarks: President Cheryl Jacobson welcomed the assembly. She began by thanking George Martin for organizing the upcoming Saturday May field trip which will be to survey VBB priority breeding blocks along the southern border of Virginia in the Emporia area that have been assigned to our club but due to the great distance have not been done. George reported that four teams have been formed to cover the blocks. Each team is going out individually. The following team leaders were introduced: Bill Williams, Nancy Barnhart, Rexanne Bruno, and Geoff Giles & Cheryl Jacobson will lead the fourth team. She noted that there is still room on some of the teams so if anyone is interested in participating, they should talk to George after the meeting. Cheryl explained that eighteen blocks have been assigned to our club and after this trip every one of them will have been surveyed at least once. Next spring, there will be an effort to survey these blocks again. She urged folks who had signed up for blocks to continue working on them this summer to get more blocks completed.

Cheryl requested a show of hands of those who attended the 2019 VSO meeting at Mountain Lake to which a good number responded. Several saw life birds: a Golden-winged Warbler and Black-billed Cuckoo.

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

- **Saturday, May 18th:** Breeding Bird Survey field trip as reported above.
- **September** will be the next month in which a field trip will be organized.

Refreshments: Chairperson, Cathy Flanagan, reported that the refreshments for the meeting were provided by Judy Jones.

2020 VSO Annual Meeting: Chairperson Rexanne Bruno was asked to report on updates. She noted that she is holding a meeting in June and by September there should be more to report about the annual meeting that our club will be hosting here in Williamsburg at Fort Magruder with Bryan Watts the keynote speaker.

The Flyer: Chairperson Melinda Cousins was not present. Cheryl complimented her work on the May issue of The Flyer. She announced that Melinda is working on her doctorate and is stretched for time to continue as chairperson. Cindy Baker who has been the editor of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists newsletter for two years and the VSO newsletter for 1 ½ years will collaborate with Melinda on our September newsletter and will take over for producing the October and November Flyer and will continue as editor in 2020 if voted in.

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

- **September 18th:** Chance Hines of the Center for Conservation Biology will report on his research about what fall migrating warblers eat.
- **October 16th:** John Swaddle will deliver an update on his 'acoustic lighthouse' research that helps birds avoid windmills, etc.
- **November 20th:** Brian Taber is going to speak about the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory's programs. The CVWO is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Bird Counts/ Walks: Chairperson, Jim Corliss, was absent. Cheryl reported that the Saturday, May 11th bird walk that was to take place for the first time with the Colonial Nature Photography Club had to be cancelled when a major auto accident closed Route 5 which was the only access to the Chickahominy Riverfront Park. The combined walk will be rescheduled for some future date.

Program: Judy Jones, VP (Programs) introduced the speaker who was our very own Bill Williams. Bill delivered an illustrated and entertainingly narrated account of his 2019 birding trip to Guyana which surprisingly has no endemic species. The size of Minnesota, Guyana is 70 percent pristine wilderness and has a population of about only 800,000 people. Of the 800 species of birds in the country, Bill's group saw 392. No one will forget the photo of the tame wild Giant River Otter nuzzling the birders on the patio of an old ranch where his group had lunch. Bill ended his presentation by noting that he'd recently returned from Guatemala where he delivered to Community Cloud Forest Conservation 2 pairs of binoculars and a guide book to the birds of Central America that our club had funded.

Cheryl ended the meeting introducing products that help the environment by reducing the use of plastic. She reported that many grocery stores are now selling milk in glass bottles. The customer pays \$2 for the glass bottle which is refunded when the bottle is returned to the store. She also showed us Dropp's Oxi Booster pods that can be used to treat tough laundry stains as well as spring housecleaning. There are other brands but this is the one she has had experience with and she included some in the raffle items. She also showed us examples of compostable bags compared to those that are just biodegradable.

At the end of the meeting a free raffle was held and refreshments were served,

Cheryl adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

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