

Williamsburg Bird Club
Wednesday, November 20, 2019
W&M Andrews Hall, Room 101, 7:00 pm

Attendance: 40. No new members or visitors

President's Remarks: President Cheryl Jacobson opened the meeting with an amusing account from her childhood about raising 1500 turkeys on the South Dakota prairie. In the spirit of the season, she expressed her thankfulness for all the members dedication to the club and to birds.

Bylaw Change – Dues Increase: Cheryl reported that the Board had recommended an increase of \$5 to the annual individual membership dues raising it to \$20. The proposal had been announced at the September membership meeting and in the October *Flyer*. Deane Gordon made the motion that the dues be increased to \$20; seconded by Judy Jones and approved unanimously. Cheryl noted that Jeanette Navia has the new 2020 membership forms and will accept payment tonight. She asked that members consider receiving the newsletter by email. Currently there are about 40 members receiving the black and white hard copy version which costs printing and postage. Changing to email when renewing membership will save money for the club and benefit the planet.

Annual Bird Club Election: Cheryl noted that our bylaws require us to elect the club's executive officers in November. She called on Jan Lockwood, chairperson of the Nominating Committee, to present the slate of officers as shown via PowerPoint. Jan thanked Jeanette Navia and Patty Maloney who served with her. She thanked the board members who are continuing to serve and the outgoing officers Judy Jones and Melinda Cousins. She noted that there were only two vacancies: Vice President (Programs) and Vice President (*The Flyer*). Dean Shostak volunteered for Programs. The nominee for Editor of *The Flyer* withdrew at the last minute leaving the post vacant. Jan described the importance of the newsletter as being the main means of communication about club activities/projects with the entire membership and asked that anyone interested please notify her. There will be no December *Flyer* and club info will be communicated via email.

Complying with the bylaws, the slate of nominees was presented in the October *Flyer* and membership meeting and an email was sent to the general membership. The slate of nominations for 2020 Board Officer Positions are as follows.

- President – Cheryl Jacobson
- Vice President, Programs – Dean Shostak
- Vice President, Editor, The Flyer, Newsletter – Vacant
- Treasurer – Ann Carpenter
- Secretary – Cathy Millar
- Member-at-Large, Assistant Editor, *The Flyer*, - Gary Carpenter
- Member-at-Large -Shirley Devan
- Past President – Bill Williams

Cheryl asked for nominations from the membership. There were none. Judy Jones made a motion that the slate of officers as proposed be approved. Cathy Millar seconded it and the slate was unanimously approved without further discussion.

Cheryl described the duties of being assistant editor for *The Flyer* as proof reading, taking it to a copy center and printing the hard copies, attaching mailing addresses and taking them to the post office.

Bird Counts/Walks: Chairperson, Jim Corliss, was absent. Cheryl reported on upcoming bird walks.

- November 23rd at New Quarter Park with Jan Lockwood as leader
- December 14th cancelled due to CBC the following day
- December 15th is the Christmas Bird Count. Members were urged to participate in the field or as feeder watchers. She noted that feeder watcher, Cathy Flanagan, hosts a tea at her house to help friends and neighbors participate.
- December 28th at New Quarter Park led by Nancy Barnhart
- January 1st at Greensprings Interpretive Trail led by Shirley Devan

Program: Judy Jones, VP and Programs Chairperson, introduced the meeting's speaker, Brian Taber, who has been president of the non-profit Virginia Coastal Wildlife Observatory for the last 17 years. This is the 25th anniversary of CVWO's proudly fulfilling its mission of protecting wildlife through field research, education and habitat conservation. Brian reported on the many programs, past and present, centered around raptor, waterbird, songbird and butterfly research conducted throughout Virginia's coastal area. He is proud of the many partnerships CVWO has established to accomplish the mission including cities, colleges, Master Naturalists, scout clubs, civic organizations, National Park Service and Monarch Watch, to name a few. The work is done not only by skilled biologists but also by volunteers, many of which are our very own WBC members. Our Bill Williams was CVWO's first president. Also, thanks to your dues, WBC helps support their important work through making an annual donation to CVWO. The WBC Board has nominated CVWO for the Jackson M. Abbott Conservatory Award to be awarded to the selected recipient at the VSO 2020 Annual Meeting in Williamsburg this coming May. To further celebrate this anniversary, Brian Taber has published a collection of illustrated essays he has written: *RIDING THE WIND: A BIRDER'S UPS AND DOWNS*.

For more about CVWO, please visit their wonderful new colorful and informative website:

<https://vawildliferesearch.org/>

Field Trips: George Martin, field trip coordinator, reported the following:

- November 26th trip to Grandview Nature Preserve was cancelled due to poor weather.
- No field trip in December
- Sunday, January 19th: Chesapeake Bay Boat Trip (our 6th). George will send an email to the membership over the Thanksgiving holiday for first dibs at making reservations. Payment is to accompany reservation.

Programs: Judy Jones, VP (Programs) began by reporting that she is in charge of raffle items for the 2020 VSO annual meeting and is requesting a couple of volunteers to go with her when she is requesting donations. She reported the following programs:

- January 2020: Bob Schamerhorn and Birds of Alaska

2020 VSO Meeting Update: Rexanne Bruno reported that everything is in order. Nancy Barnhart has organized field trips. Rexanne has a meeting with the hotel on December 2nd regarding exhibit space, etc. There will be requests in a couple of months for volunteers for the registration desk, etc.

Refreshments: Chairperson Cathy Flanagan reported that tonight's refreshments were provided by Geoff Giles and Daniel Keener. She announced that there is provision for refreshments for the season ending in May.

Purple Martin Project Update: Cheryl reported that they had removed the donated house at York River State Park due to complete structural failure. The folks at the Sunoco Gas Station on Pocahontas Trail are repairing it and will add it to their already impressive Purple Martin 30-year-old nesting site. The WBC Board has approved funding for a new pole, pulley system and gourds to be erected at York River State Park. She noted that recent research indicates that Martins do the best in gourds. Mike Bishop from the Northern Virginia Purple Martin Initiative will be one of our future speakers and host a table at our 2020 VSO meeting.

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

Cheryl adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm and refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary Williamsburg Bird Club
November 25, 2019