

Williamsburg Bird Club

August 18, 2021

Conducted via Zoom; invited by Ann Carpenter and presided by Cheryl Jacobson

Attendance: 69

President's Remarks: President Cheryl Jacobson welcomed the attendees which included folks from Cape Henry Audubon Society, Hampton Roads Bird Club and the Historic Rivers Chapter of Master Naturalists.

Program – Julie Mallon: Tory Gussman introduced our speaker, Julie Mallon, who talked about the natural history of turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*, which translates in Greek to *breezy cleaner*) and her research on their flight behaviors and migration. Dr. Mallon first became interested in studying vultures during an internship at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in 2011. She earned her Master's degree from West Virginia University in 2015 where she studied the flight behaviors of Black and Turkey Vultures. Her Master's research was awarded special recognition by the Auk, New York Times, and the BBC. Last year, she earned her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she studied the drivers of migratory and non-migratory movements by birds. Her presentation was titled *Turkey Vultures; Adaptations for a Migratory Obligated Scavenger* in which she discussed the adaptive strategies Turkey Vultures use to deal with competition from other scavengers.

Ann Carpenter later shared the recorded program with the membership:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/R9aWfFWbCI5UYamF6-AUfsOLTuNVZl-LA7GPvEAd9qm6b_jYhlqgqOhlb35mX-E-.y99wwCARE6d0BHgn Passcode: EmV?=2.0

Programs – Tory Gussman, Vice President: Tory reported the following on upcoming programs:

Wednesday, Sept 15: Brian Watts from the Center for Conservation Biology will speak about Black Rails, a species that is in steep decline.

Wednesday, Oct 20: Brent Lubbock from Sylvan Heights Bird Park will present "Beyond the Bird Park"; a brief history of the park, past and present conservation projects, and information about the Avian Breeding Center and their birds.

Wednesday, Nov 17: Bob Schamerhorn

Wednesday, December: no meeting

Cheryl Jacobson added that there is some hope of being able to meet in person in January 2022 but that will depend on the ever- changing status of the Covid pandemic. Meanwhile, she's been working with the James City County Rec Center to arrange for the availability of 2 rooms starting in January.

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

Saturday, Sept 18: Newport News Park with Jason Strickland as leader. Meet at the parking lot by the rangers station at 8 am. There will be no car- pooling.

Bird Walks – Scott Hemler: Scott reported on the next bird walk:

Saturday, August 28: New Quarter Park at 8am with George Martin as leader. Meet in the parking lot. Scott is hoping that the weather will be cooperative as the last two walks were quite rainy. Cheryl added that Purple Martins were spotted flying overhead at the last walk and hopes that they will return next spring to nest at the martin house the club has set up at the park.

Newsletter (The Flyer) – Mary Ellen Hodges, Vice-President, Editor: Mary Ellen was absent. Cheryl reported that the deadline for submission of material was August 26th. She invited photos and articles about birds seen during the summer.

Membership – Jeanette Navia: Cheryl reported that Jeanette has been working on our website to set up an additional option for paying for membership via PayPal. Previous options for payment will still be available.

Next Board Meeting: Cheryl reported that the next meeting will be October 4th. The issue of meeting in-person, among other things, will be discussed. Decisions that are made will be shared with the membership via listserv.

Chimney Swifts: George Martin and the Fords Colony Bird Club, Wings, have been working with Fords Colony about building a Chimney Swift tower. He's gotten a tentative agreement from the Woodworkers Club to build the tower. A cost estimate for the materials needed is \$800. There will be a request for funds in the near future.

Cheryl adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary Williamsburg Bird Club,
August 22, 2021