

## **Williamsburg Bird Club**

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Conducted via Zoom hosted by Ann Carpenter, Presided by President Cheryl Jacobson

**Attendance:** 44

**Program – Bob Schamerhorn:** Tory Gussman introduced Bob Schamerhorn, who studied Art and Design at Virginia Tech and has worked in related fields ever since. His love for nature was nurtured as a youth by the Lynchburg Bird Club and attendance at Nature Camp. Bob's presentation was titled *ATTRACTING BIRDS WITH WATER*. His superb photography had just placed him in the top ten in the video category of the 2021 Audubon National Photography Awards; the third time he's received national recognition in the last four years. He showed us gorgeous pictures/videos of the 82 species of birds (accompanied by their corresponding songs) that have been attracted to a water feature that he built on his one quarter acre suburban property on the north side of Richmond that he moved to in 2008. From a blind placed 15 feet from his water feature, he photographs them bathing and drinking. He noted with amusement that Yellow-rumped Warblers are champion bathers, bathing as long as three minutes, whereas most species spend only five to ten seconds. He pointed out that because birds need clean running water for hydration, maintaining body temperature and conditioning their feathers, that providing an attractive source will attract species to one's yard that are not drawn in by bird seed and suet. He emphasized that the typical bird bath is too deep and that birds prefer water that is, at most, only 1 inch deep. Accordingly, for approximately \$200, Bob built a bird bath featuring a rock with a shallow bowl-shaped depression that is supplied with recirculating water. He bought all the needed materials (except the rock) from a local farm supply and hardware store. He then discovered by adding dripping water, his bird spa became irresistible. Furthermore, this low maintenance, mosquito and algae-free bird bath took only about 3-5 hours to assemble.

Since Bob presented the birds by the seasons in which they were seen, this presentation is also an excellent review of what birds one might expect to see in our area at those times of the year.

I highly recommend watching our YouTube link to see the variety of birds, including an amazing variety of warblers, that are attracted to his bird spa. <https://youtu.be/8KfZOROVV6k>

To build your own bird spa, go to his web site, <https://iphotobirds.com/index.html>, where you can purchase a booklet with illustrated step-by-step instructions as well as lovely note cards, calendars, coloring books and more.

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

**Saturday, November 20:** Grandview Nature Preserve with Nancy Barnhart as leader. We will meet at Grandview at 8 am. Those interested in car-pooling for the field trip should meet at Old Colony Square Shopping Center parking for departure at 7:15.

**Sunday, January 16, 2021:** Annual Boat Trip. The new boat is limited to 40 passengers so the ticket cost has been increased to \$50 to cover expenses including tips for the crew. George will send out invitations to the membership to reserve a spot probably on Thanksgiving weekend.

**Bird Walks – Scott Hemler:** Scott reported the following:

**Saturday, November 27:** New Quarter Park at 8 am. Our group will be joined by boy scouts who are working on their bird-watching badge.

**Christmas Bird Count – Jim Corliss, Committee Chairperson:** Jim was absent. Cheryl reported on the following:

**Sunday, December 19:** The WBC will be participating in its 45<sup>th</sup> CBC under the auspices of the Audubon Society and we are obliged to follow the Covid guidelines as posted by Audubon which has not changed from that of last year. As a result, there will not be a gathering at the end of the day to compile results. Folks who would like to participate and are not on already established teams should contact Jim via email. Feeder watchers are also welcome.

**New Year's Day Bird and Birder Show – Organized by Shirley Devan**

**Saturday, January 1, 2022:** Shirley Devan reported that after missing 2 years due to Covid, this year, the event (the 16<sup>th</sup>) has moved from Greensprings Trail Boardwalk to New Quarter Park. She made a point of encouraging our new members whom we've yet to meet to come and gather at the Fire Circle between 1 – 3 pm for comradery, a warm fire and some birding.

**Programs – Tory Gussman, Vice President:** Cheryl had set-up and reported on the following programs while Tory was traveling:

**Wednesday, January 19:** Dan Cristol will present "25 years of bird research at W&M with Dan Cristol" which will be a synopsis of every study he has done with students ranging from clam-dropping gulls to evolving juncos brains to the effects of deer on birds to mercury pollution. This meeting will be held via Zoom.

**Wednesday, February 16:** Bill Williams will present on Craney Island. The goal is to be able to host this meeting in person at the James City County Recreation Center as well as via Zoom for those who live too far away or have concerns about Covid safety. This will probably be a joint meeting with the HRC. Some of the technological aspects of a hybrid meeting are still be worked out.

**Annual Bird Club Election:** President Cheryl Jacobson noted that there were two vacancies this year: President and Vice President/Programs. The nominating committee of Ann Carpenter, Shirley Devan and Nancy Barnhart had nominated Nancy Barnhart for President and Patty Maloney for Vice President/Programs. The rest of the Board wished to continue to serve. The slate of nominees had been posted in *The Flyer* and reviewed at the October membership meeting. Cheryl reviewed the 2022 Williamsburg Bird Club slate of nominees as follows:

President: Nancy Barnhart

Vice-President, Programs: Patty Maloney

Vice-President, Editor of The Flyer: Mary Ellen Hodges

Past President: Cheryl Jacobson

Secretary: Cathy Millar

Treasurer: Ann Carpenter

Members-at-Large: Gary Carpenter, Shirley Devan

Cheryl noted there had been no nominations made from the membership in the chat box.

Cheryl asked for a show of hands for those who approved. The show of hands appeared to be unanimous. Cheryl asked for a show of hands of those who dissented. There were none. The slate was approved without further discussion.

**Newsletter (The Flyer) – Mary Ellen Hodges, Vice-President, Editor:** Mary Ellen reported that, as customary, there would be no December issue. The deadline for the January issue is December 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Child Development Resources – Gary Carpenter:** Gary was happy to report that CDR had reopened post-Covid and he is, once again, supplying WBC-funded birdseed.

**Note of Appreciation:** Nancy Barnhart, backed by all in attendance, commended Cheryl Jacobson for all her hard work as president as she most capably led our club through participating in the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas 2; prepared for hosting the VSO annual meeting and then picked up the pieces when it was canceled; and helped establish policies and meetings via Zoom to keep club members actively engaged but safe during the Covid pandemic. Now she will be starting a new post as WBC chairperson of the new Conservation Committee.

Cheryl adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted  
Cathy Millar, Secretary Williamsburg Bird Club  
November 19, 2021