

**Williamsburg Bird Club**  
**March 19, 2025**

Hybrid meeting; conducted in person at Quarterpath Rec Center, Room 2, Quarterpath Rd, Williamsburg,  
and via Zoom hosted by Ann Carpenter at 6:30pm

**Attendance:** 24 via Zoom; 26 in person

**President's Remarks:** President Nancy Barnhart welcomed everyone present and on Zoom. She noted there would be a brief period of announcements after the presentation followed by a free raffle. She thanked John and Jan Lockwood for the meetings delicious refreshments. She noted that she'd failed to announce at last month's meeting that Donna Benson had brought the refreshments.

**Program:** Patty Maloney introduced Andrew Rapp who delivered his presentation of Andrew Rapp, "Seabirds of Virginia." Andrew has been a lifelong birder; was one of the founding members of the Blue Ridge Young Birders Club in Charlottesville. He later graduated from W&M with a double major in Biology and Environmental Science. He has worked for Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory as a hawk counter and migratory entomologist and currently is a field zoologist with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Natural Heritage Program where he monitors state rare animals. Andrew reported on Virginia seabird habitats and factors that influence their presence or absence; a broad definition of the term 'seabird'; introduced the concept of species complexes; reviewed the identification of a wide variety of seabirds seen in Virginia; and finally, how we are connected to seabirds in Williamsburg, VA and how we can make a difference. Andrew divided seabirds he would talk about into 4 groups: Procellariiformes (Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels, Storm-Petrels); Jaegers/Skuas; Tropicbirds; and Tropical Terns. Andrew concluded his very informative talk by hoping that with our new knowledge, we'd be interested in going on a Virginia pelagic boat trip.

**Announcements:**

**Bird Walks – Scott Hemler:**

- **Saturday, March 22:** 8 am monthly bird walk at New Quarter Park

**Field Trips – George Martin, Field Trip Coordinator:**

- **Saturday, April 19:** Chippokes State Park in Surry County. Nancy Barnhart will lead the group. The trip requires a ride on the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry. He recommended that we arrive at the ferry dock by 7:10 to catch the 7:20 departure.

**The Flyer:** Nancy reported for Mary Ellen Hodges, Editor, that the deadline for photos and articles is March 26.

**2025 Spring Bird Count:** Shirley Devan requested that we mark our calendars for Sunday, April 27. As the compiler, Shirley reported that there were 153 species including 19 warblers on the 2024 count. Species and number of individuals are counted in the same area is involved in the Christmas Bird Count. Feeder watchers and field teams are welcome.

**VSO Membership:** Shirley Devan, membership secretary of VSO reminded us that individual membership is \$20. The next field trip will be to Gloucester County on May 16<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>. She was very proud to report that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas is fully funded.

**Programs – Patty Maloney, Vice President (Programs)** reported the following:

- **April 16:** W&M students awarded a WBC Bill Sheehan/Ruth Beck Ornithology Research Grant give presentations on their research projects. The presenters are Samuel Arnold – “Waterbird Use of Living Shorelines across the Gradient of Urbanization;” Sophie Rabinowicz – “The Movement of Mercury from Aquatic Ecosystems to Terrestrial Songbirds;” and Max Rollfinke – “The Lateral Extent of Mercury Contamination in Songbirds and Their Prey”.
- **May 21:** Dixie Summers will report on birding in Chile.
- **June 18:** Social gathering at Chickahominy Waterfront Park. Cheryl Jacobson will share a report about how Purple Martins are doing in our area.

**Prothonotary Warblers:** Shirley Devan reported that they are expected back mid- April. She and her team have installed 8 new boxes in the swamp along Greensprings Trail.

Update on Rufus/Allens Hummingbird: Nancy reported that the hummingbird left our area before the professional bander was available.

**Annual CVWO College Creek Hawkwatch Update:** Nancy reported that the first day they hit 1,000 birds was March 15. One day later than last year. Folks are welcome to visit from 10 am -2 pm.

**End of Meeting:** A free raffle was held.

Nancy Barnhart adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Millar, Secretary Williamsburg Bird Club  
April 7, 2025