

Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. ID Challenge: Tennessee and Nashville Warblers (male).
3. EXCOM Member Reports:
 - a. President: Dave announced several upcoming area events:
 - i. VSO Field Trip to Piney Grove will be 30 May, providing an opportunity to see the Red-cockaded Woodpecker.
 - ii. VSO Field Trip to Blacksburg, VA will be 12-14 June.
 - iii. Election for the Executive Committee were held. The following nominees were elected for the 2015-2016 term:
 - President – Dave Youker
 - Vice President – Brenda Gervais
 - Treasurer – John Adair
 - Secretary – Bill Boeh
 - Director (2018) – Andy Hawkins
 - Host – Katrina Dash
 - Programs – Brenda Gervais
 - Publicity – Jessica Ausura
 - Newsletter – Tom Charlock
 - Membership – Gwen Harris
 - Field Trips – Stuart Sweetman
 - b. Dave also made an “Appeal to Conserve” to the membership, reminding us all that we all can’t just be observers--participation in conservation efforts is the “second half of birding.” These efforts will:
 - i. Preserve the future
 - ii. Provide an opportunity for us to learn something new
 - iii. Provide a rewarding experience
 - c. Dave detailed the various HRBC Conservation Efforts:
 - i. Bluebird Trail
 1. Started in 1972
 2. Monitor and maintain 107 boxes
 3. Peak time: mid-April thru July
 4. Totals

- a. Early years averaged 250
 - b. Since 2000, averaged 300+
 - c. High year 2013: 465
 - d. Other fledged birds: Chickadees, Carolina Wrens, Tree Swallows, House Wrens, Brown-headed Nuthatches
- ii. Shorebird Nesting Surveys at Craney Island, Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, and Grandview Nature Preserve
- iii. Prothonotary Warbler Nesting Survey:
 - 1. Started in 2009; conducted at Lee Hall & Harwoods Mill Reservoirs
 - 2. Initially 6 boxes; this year 10
 - 3. PROW Totals
 - a. 2009: 3
 - b. 2010: 5
 - c. 2011: 21
 - d. 2012: 26
 - e. 2013: 42
 - f. 2014: 43
 - g. Other birds: Chickadees, Tree Swallows
- iv. Wood Duck Nesting
 - 1. Started in 2011 at Harwoods Mill Reservoir
 - 2. Repaired existing boxes; got nothing for 2 years; replaced boxes over winter of 2012
 - 3. 2013-14 totals: Carolina Wrens: 10; Prothonotary Warblers: 9; and Eastern Bluebirds: 5; Wood Ducks: 0.
 - 4. 2015: 2 boxes occupied with a total of 25 Wood Duck eggs!
- v. Contact Dave if you are interested in participating in any of these projects, or have an idea for a new project. Any data provided by surveys of the Western Shore Marshes Important Bird Area are always of value!
- d. Field Trip Coordinator: Details of the May 16 Richmond/Bell Isle Field Trip were provided.
- e. Hospitality:
 - i. Virginia thanked those who provided snacks for the meeting
 - ii. Virginia provided the following information regarding the upcoming club picnic:
 - 1. The picnic will be held on June 6. Please sign up by the end of this month so the proper amount of food and other supplies can be procured.
 - 2. Bring a side dish to share. Let Virginia know what side dish you will be bringing.

3. There will be a bird walk at 8:00 a.m.; meet at the usual place. The picnic itself will be held at Newport News Park, Shelter #4, start time 12:00 and 12:30.
 4. Although the shelter has seating, you may wish to bring your own chair to provide more flexibility in the seating arrangement.
 5. There were already sufficient volunteers for the picnic.
- f. Newsletter Editor: Tom gave a special thanks to Shawn Dash for his article on the analysis of HRBC's Newport News Bird Walks from February 2008 to the present.
 - g. There were no reports from the Treasurer, Website/Publicity committees
4. Membership. The Club's ranks were expanded by several new members: John Sprock, Lizz Hunt; Melissa DeWolfe, and Mark Sopko (all of whom participated in the Spring Bird Count at Langley AFB with Bill Boeh).
 5. Guest Speaker: "Human Impacts on Birds in the Western Shore Marshes" by Jordan Hogge. Jordan is engaged in a school project under Club President Dave Youker. At our May meeting, Jordan will present his analysis of the Western Shore Marshes IBA (Important Bird Area). He has been studying the potential impacts on this IBA habitat and its avian species from human disturbances and future rises in sea levels.
 6. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
 7. Next meeting will be the Bird Walk/Picnic on Saturday June 6 (details above).