

Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. ID Challenge: Brenda Gervais, standing in for Dave Youker, highlighted distinguishing characteristics of the Savannah Sparrow and Whimbrel.
3. EXCOM Member Reports:
 - a. President [Dave Youker was absent; Jessica Ausura and Brenda Gervais co-led the meeting in his stead]:
 - i. Nominating Committee: Jane Frigo (chair) advised that all the current officers and committee chairs excepting the Field Trip and Host Committee chairs had agreed to continue in their present positions, but club members who desired to serve in any of those positions were free to run for them. Nominees for must be identified by the end of April to enable the election to be held at the May meeting. Members should contact Jane if interested in serving on the executive committee, as a committee chair, and/or as a Board Member.
 - ii. Jessica and Brenda reviewed upcoming events:
 1. The annual Rusty Blackbird Migration Blitz is underway (runs March 1 to June 15).
 2. VA Breeding Bird Atlas 2 (VABBA2). The VBBA2 is one of the biggest projects VA birders will be involved over the next few years. VA's initial Atlas was conducted from 1985-89; development of VABBA2 starts this spring and runs through 2020. The Williamsburg Bird Club will host a presentation by Dr. Ashley Peele, who is leading the effort, on 16 Mar at 7 PM at the William and Mary Integrative Science Center (located behind Phi Beta Kappa Hall), Room 1127.
 3. The Club's Spring Bird Count will be held on May 7.
 - b. Field Trip Coordinator:
 - i. Stuart advised that the Back Bay trip is scheduled for March 12, the Great Dismal Swamp trip is scheduled for April 16, and the Richmond trip is scheduled for May 7. Stuart noted that the Richmond trip is the same day as the club's Spring Bird Count; however, since the Spring Bird Count date was not mandated by Audubon as is the Christmas Bird Count, perhaps it could be rescheduled. See the Newsletter for details on the trips.
 - ii. The False Cape/Back Bay field trip originally scheduled for January will take place on March 12.
 - c. Hospitality: Not present.
 - d. Membership: Several new members attended the meeting.
 - e. Newsletter Editor: Tom needs inputs for his next newsletter!
 - f. Treasurer: Nothing of significance to report.
 - g. Publicity: Nothing of significance to report.

- h. Open discussion:
 - i. Tom Charlock advised that there were two local issues with environmental significance being considered by the cities of Hampton and Newport News: commercial development at Fort Monroe and the fate of the City Farm in Newport News. Candidates for Hampton and Newport News city government will be attending the following events at which they might be asked to comment regarding their positions on these issues:
 - 1. The York River Sierra Club will host a “Hampton Candidates Forum” on Wednesday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m., at Sandy Bottom. Candidates for mayor and the Hampton City Council will attend and present their positions on key environmental issues.
 - 2. The York River Sierra Club will host a “Newport News Candidates Forum” on Wednesday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m., at the Main Street Library in Newport News. Candidates the Newport News City Council will attend and present their positions on key environmental issues.
- 4. Guest Speakers. Two speakers provided presentations:
 - a. Dorothy Geyer, a National Park Service Natural Resource Specialist at the Colonial National Historical Park, provided an overview of a citizen science initiative being conducted at the park—namely, a detailed inventory of birds in various habitats. Ms. Geyer needs pairs of volunteers to conduct the inventory between May and July. Each inventory should take about 3 hours; volunteers can schedule them as desired. Training and equipment (GPS units) will be provided. Contact Ms. Geyer if you are interested at 757-898-2433 or Dorothy_Geyer@nps.gov.
 - b. Brian Taber, President of the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO), gave a presentation on CVWO surveys of local shorebird populations at Craney Island, Grandview Beach, and the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel.
- 5. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.
- 6. Next meeting will be Thursday, April 14, at the usual time and place--6:30 PM, Sandy Bottom Park.