

Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. ID Challenge: Shawn's challenges included various gulls; Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal; Lesser Grebe; and Great Egret.
3. EXCOM Member Reports:
 - a. President: .
 - b. Field Trip Coordinator: Andy Hawkins advised that the February field trip will be to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel islands. Groups of 15 are allowed to visit islands 2 through 4 with a security escort by tunnel guards. The first group of 15 is filled; the second group of 15 is open for signup. A fee of \$10 per person is required to pay for the escort; additionally all visitors must fill out an ID form prior to the trip. If you'd like to go contact Andy to arrange for filling out the form as well as payment of the escort fee. Attendees will meet at the south toll plaza parking lot at 7:30.

Note: Andy advised that while the trip will "officially" only include the tunnel islands, he will be visiting other sites on the Eastern Shore afterward. Members are welcome to join him in visiting to these additional sites.

- a. Hospitality: Jane thanked all for their help with the Christmas Party, particularly those who prepared hams and turkeys. She also thanked those who brought snacks and drinks for the meeting. Jane made an appeal for club members to sign up to bring snacks and drinks at the March, April and May meetings, noting that some members were carrying the a disproportionate share of the load by repeatedly bringing refreshments.
- b. Membership: No new members to report.
- c. Newsletter Editor: Tom, as always, is soliciting for articles!
- d. Treasurer: John reminded all to pay their dues if they hadn't already; if you're not sure, contact John.
- e. Publicity: Not present.
- f. Open discussion:
 - i. Nancy Gruttman-Tyler and Bill Boeh gave a quick summary of this year's results (still preliminary as not all sector data had been input). Nancy and Bill also discussed the use of eBird to submit observations by sector, emphasizing that to avoid duplicate observations being submitted, only one individual per party should submit observations and then share their observations with the HRBC account (and other participants as desired). The final accounting of the CBC will be provided once the data is accepted by Audubon.
 - ii. Jane Frigo and Shawn requested that the members support an effort to reinstate an annual January bird count in Newport News Park. The Club had done January counts from 1985-95, but had not done a count since. Jane and Shawn advised that the 2017 count would be held on January 22, with the Park being divided into 5 sectors. A minimum of 2 counters per sector was desired.

A signup sheet was passed around for members to sign up. If interested contact Jane Frigo.

- iii. Jane also had found deceased Ruby-crowned Kinglet that had succumbed to a window strike. She had placed the bird in a clear plastic container and it was passed around for the members to examine if desired.
4. Guest Speaker: The speaker was club member James Abbot who gave a presentation entitled “The Comeback of the Harpy Eagle”. The presentation detailed the 2005 sighting of a juvenile Harpy in the Belize’s Bladen Nature Reserve (the first such sighting in 50 years) and the subsequent quest to identify the nest site and determine if there were additional eagles in the Reserve (in which James was a participant). The story is detailed at the Nature Conservancy (<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/centralamerica/belize/explore/the-harpy-eagle-returns.xml>) as well as in a Youtube video entitled “Wings of Hope” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JX5TXeGwMqo>.
5. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.
6. Next Club meeting will be February 9, 2017, 6:30 PM, Sandy Bottom Park.