HRBC General Meeting Notes

September 8, 2022

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The meeting was held at Sandy Bottom Nature Park and called to order at 7:06 PM by VP Mark Sopko

New members/visitors: Lauri attended. Not sure if she’s a member.

Bird sightings: Northern Waterthrush and Marbled Godwit

ID Challenge: Short billed dowitcher, Western Willet, Plover, Marble Godwit

President: Ill with COVID

Membership: Gwen Harris absent

Hospitality: Jane Frigo asks that people sign up to provide refreshments (the meeting had such in abundance).

Newsletter: Tom Charlock apologized for a terse Sep/Oct newsletter. He did not seek writeups from the Photo Contest winners (but their photos were published). Please send input for the next newsletter by October 25, 2022.

Publicity: This position is vacant.

Webpage: The Maxey’s were absent.

Treasurer: John Adair displayed viewgraph

$9,025.14 bank balance

$1,904.26 checking

$7,120.88 savings

$1,505.00 income

$1,900.00 expense

VP Mark Sopko asked for recommendations for themes/speakers at meetings.

Andy Hawkins, who does bluebird trail, seeks $50.00 for replacements.

Student supported at $500, VBBA2 VSO at $300, HRBC programs at $600.

Website expenses will have one-time jump in next several years.

Budget approved by unanimous vote.

Field trips: James Abbott speaks on planned trips. Dates are given in Bird Notes newsletter for those during every month from September through May. Destinations for some may change as opportunities arise.

Open Discussion: Mark Sopko and Dave Youker state that work is needed on HRBC constitution and bylaws, for which volunteers are sought.

Tom Charlock noted that a public meeting held at Fort Monroe in August by the US Army Corps of Engineers and VA Department of Wildlife Management, the Fort Wool + barges facility to provide nesting for seabirds was stated to be temporary. A permanent solution has been proposed: the construction of an artificial island of dredged material. Both institutions seek comments. James Abbott pointed out a recently considered site for the island are clams shallows some distance off the eastern shores of Hampton; watermen may object; some local shoreline residents object that such island would mar their views.

Mark Sopko called for a break before his presentation.

Speaker’s Notes:

Travel Log: Elaine and Mark Sopko’s Antarctic Adventure.” Mark and his wife Elaine took a trip with Quark Expeditions from 29DEC2018 – 3JAN2019 on a Class 1A icebreaker, Ocean Adventure. Cruising the Antarctic Peninsula, cleanliness rules were strong as they took 6 zodiac excursions and one continental landing. A highlight was visiting Poulet Island’s colony of Adele Penguins. With over 100K breeding pairs, Mark was “overwhelmed with the amount of life,” as well as by the noise and smell of it. Wildlife observed: 2 species of whale, 3 of seals, and 13 Antarctic birds. The Sopko’s thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Mark ended with a very convincing BBC video showing a colony of flying penguins. The spoiler… it was a BBC April Fools joke!

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM

Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, October 13, 2022

1. The meeting was held at Sandy Bottom Nature Park and called to order at 7:02 p.m. There were 31 attendees.
2. New members/visitors: None.
3. Bird Sightings: Multiple warblers, Common Raven in Newport News, Hudsonian & Marbled Godwits at Bethel Beach.
4. ID Challenge: There was no ID challenge presented; however, multiple challenges were incorporated into the speaker’s presentation.
5. Reports:
	1. President:
		1. Reminded all to please pay club dues.
		2. Reminded all about the bimonthly photo contest.
		3. Thanked Bill Boeh for presentation on feeding wild birds at the Endview Plantation PawPaw Festival.
	2. Membership: Nothing significant to report.
	3. Hospitality:
		1. Thanked those who provided for Sept/Oct.
		2. Please sign up to provide snacks (signup during meetings).
		3. Charm Peterman has offered to host the Holiday Party at her house; details to follow.
		4. Received request from Newport News Park to provide a program at NNP on winter birds on January 14. Please advise Jane if you are interested in giving the presentation.
		5. January 28 is the date for the Newport News Park winter bird count.
	4. Newsletter: Please provide input by October 25th for the next newsletter.
	5. Publicity: Not present.
	6. Website: Not present.
	7. Treasurer: Nothing significant to report.
6. In the field: October 16 Eastern Shore/Chincoteague field trip. See newsletter/website for details.
7. Open Discussion: Christmas Bird Count will be December 17th; email Bill Boeh to volunteer.
8. Speaker’s Notes: our own Dr. Shawn Dash provided a detailed, interactive presentation on shorebird identification techniques.
9. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Submitted by: William Boeh, Secretary

Approved by: Dr. Shawn Dash, President

Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022

1. The meeting was held at Sandy Bottom Nature Park and via Zoom and called to order at 7:03 p.m. There were 26 attendees.
2. New members/visitors
3. Bird Sightings: Female Harlequin duck at Grandview, loons observed in the Hampton River; the roadside pond at the Cedar Road exit from route 164 likely has Gadwalls.
4. ID Challenge: Dunlin, Nelson’s Sparrow; Purple Sandpiper; Swamp Sparrow.
5. Reports:
	1. President: No report.
	2. Membership: No new attendees.
	3. Hospitality: The chair thanked those who brought snacks. Next meeting is holiday party; bring appetizer, side dish, or dessert. See current newsletter for details. Contact Jane Frigo if you’d like to help set up.
	4. Newsletter: Thanks to those who contributed to Nov-Dec Newsletter. For next please send well prior to Xmas.
	5. Publicity: Vacant
	6. Website: Not present. The President advised that the website has been updated and is current with respect to documents and events.
	7. Treasurer: No report.
	8. Field Trips: Chair advised that the next trip is to Grandview on 13 November; it’s a long hike, dress for the colder/windier conditions! See newsletter for future trips.
6. Open Discussion:
	1. October 29th HRBC Big Birding Day: Davy Youker provided an overview of results; 14 members participated and 100 species were observed.
	2. Christmas Bird Count: Contact Bill Boeh to volunteer, see newsletter for details.
7. Speaker’s Notes: “Life Cycle of the Wild Turkey” by Bruce Ingram. Mr. Ingram provided a thorough and fascinating presentation on the Wild Turkey, including food sources, natural threats, climate change’s deleterious effects on Virginia populations, and its favored habitat for foraging and breeding.
8. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Submitted by: William Boeh, Secretary

Approved by: Dr. Shawn Dash, President

Hampton Roads Bird Club

General Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 8, 2022

1. The club held its annual holiday gathering (in lieu of a normal meeting) at Sandy Bottom Nature Park. There were 21 attendees. As this was a purely social gathering, no officer or committee chair reports were provided nor was any business conducted or speaker presentation provided.

2. Charm Peterman generously supplied chili and cornbread, while other attending members brought appetizers, hors d'oeuvres, side dishes or salads, toppings for the chili, or desserts to round out the meal. Social time was held between 6:30 and 7 PM; the Hospitality chair (Jane Frigo), began the dinner phase with a short prayer of thanksgiving at 7 PM.

3. The gathering adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Submitted by: William Boeh, Secretary

Approved by: Dr. Shawn Dash, President

Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2023

1. The meeting was held at Sandy Bottom Nature Park and called to order at 7:05 p.m. There were 28 attendees.
2. New members/visitors: Several visitors and one new member (David Yeager).
3. Bird Sightings: Juvenile Red-tailed Hawk at Hampton campus; huge flock of Red-wing Blackbirds and Red-shouldered Hawk near Pete Peterman’s house; Great Horned Owls near Bill Boeh’s home; other members reported Dark-eyed Juncos, Hermit Thrush; Orange-crowned Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, and Rusty Blackbirds.
4. ID Challenge: Ipswich Savannah Sparrow; BB Cuckoo; Road Runner; Mangrove Cuckoo; Yellow-billed Cuckoo.
5. Reports:
	1. President: Reminded all that the Great Backyard Bird Count will take place February 17-20.
	2. Membership: No report.
	3. Hospitality: Chair thanked those who brought snacks. She also passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to bring snacks to future meetings.
	4. Newsletter: Chair noted error in the cover letter to the January-February edition, i.e., the club fiscal year begins in September, not January. He also thanked to those who contributed to Nov-Dec Newsletter, and advised that February 25 is the deadline for the March-April edition.
	5. Publicity: Vacant
	6. Website: Not present. President remarked that the Maxey’s are consistently maintaining and updating the site.
	7. Treasurer: No report.
	8. Field Trips: Back Bay trip is February 12, cost of tram is $8.00. Advise James Abbott if you plan to go. See newsletter for details on this and future trips.
6. Open Discussion:
	1. Winter Newport News Bird will be 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 28. See January-February newsletter for details.
	2. Gwen Harris recommended the book “Feather Thief”, contact her if you’d like to borrow it.
	3. HRBC photo contest: Submit entries to Michael Meyers; see the newsletter for rules and instructions.
7. Speaker’s Notes: “Christmas Bird Count” by Mark Sopko. Mark provided a history of the bird count, explained how the count is executed, provided results of local counts (Matthews and Newport News circles), and related what the collected data indicates for bird populations.
8. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by: William Boeh, Secretary

Approved by: Dr. Shawn Dash, President

Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023

1. The meeting was held at Sandy Bottom Nature Park and called to order at 7:03 p.m. There were 18 attendees. The President was absent, so the Vice President chaired the meeting.
2. New members/visitors: none
3. Bird Sightings: Black-headed Gull (Bob Schamerhorn); Least Tern (James Abbot) Red-shouldered Hawk (Shawn Dash), Barred Owls (Mark Sopko); Canvasbacks; raft of American Avocets (Outer Banks, Pete); Cooper’s Hawk (Charm Peterman).
4. ID Challenge: Bonaparte’s Gulls; Groove-billed Ani; Smooth-billed Ani; Limpkin.
5. Reports:
	1. President: absent
	2. Membership: Nothing to report.
	3. Hospitality: Thanked those who brought snacks. Please sign up at the next meeting (or contact Jane) to volunteer.
	4. Publicity: Vacant
	5. Website: Nothing to report.
	6. Newsletter: Absent, but the Vice President reminded all that Tom needs input by Feb 25.
	7. Treasurer: Nothing to report.
	8. Field Trips: Field Trip on Back Bay Tram to False Cape State Park February 25. Chair will send email with details.
6. Open Discussion:
	1. Gave report on the Newport News Winter Count; thanked all who participated.
	2. Bill gave overview of CBC results, NNP Winter Count, and the eBird Trip Reports associated with these (and other) events.
7. Speaker’s Notes: “Web-footed Waterbirds” by Bob Schamerhorn. Bob provided an overview of North American ducks and geese, including their field marks; physiology; migratory patterns; and breeding behavior and locations, all illustrated by Bob’s phenomenal photographs.
8. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Submitted by: William Boeh, Secretary

Approved by: Dr. Shawn Dash, President

Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023

1. The meeting was held at Sandy Bottom Nature Park and called to order at 7:08 p.m. There were 22 attendees. Meeting itself was not by Zoom but presentation was by Zoom.
2. New members/visitors: new member Peter Van Veld.
3. Bird Sightings: Mark Sopko reported species in the Galapagos, James Abbott had penguins in New Zealand, and Ryan Walsh saw Oystercatchers at Fort Monroe. Tom Charlock informed that Lynn Chandler (alwchandler@yahoo.com, 757-529-1365) at 62 Marrow St. in Hampton (on the water) reports a Mandarin Duck and invites members to come and see it.
4. ID Challenge: Shawn Dash focused on the rail family; Common Gallinule, Purple Gallinule, American Coot, and Grayheaded Swamphen.
5. Reports:
	1. President: No announcement.
	2. Membership: No report.
	3. Hospitality: Thanked those who brought snacks. Jane Frigo said a club picnic will be held on Sunday June 11; bring covered dish; no BBQ; avoids conflict with VSO event.
	4. Publicity: No report.
	5. Website: Ellis Maxey will make some improvements.
	6. Treasurer: No report.
	7. Field Trips: James Abbott says that if space is available, non-members may attend, but members have priority. Dismal Swamp trip will not have space restriction.
	8. Please submit inputs for next newsletter by April 25.
6. Open Discussion: None.
7. Speaker’s Notes: Biologist Cynthia Morris on “Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge – Refuge for Wildlife, Refuge for People.” Refuge established 1973 and opened 1974. 49K acre gift. Swamp formerly ~ 1.3M acre before European settlement. Evidence of Dismal Town community ("Maroon colonies”). Logging 1763 by George Washington company. Since 1974 ditches and canals added very considerably; hydrological restoration to re-establish sponge. High plant and animal diversity. In NWR nature has priority over human visitation. Reintroduced Red-cockaded Woodpecker. The remote presentation was interrupted due to fault midway. Very good presentation with questions.
8. The meeting adjourned at 8:17p.m.

Submitted by: William Boeh, Secretary

Approved by: Dr. Shawn Dash, President

Tom Charlock took notes as substitute.

Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023

1. The meeting was held at Sandy Bottom Nature Park and called to order at 7:09 p.m. There were 18 attendees.
2. New members/visitors: None
3. Bird Sightings: Jane (chipp sp); Ruby-throat (Pete house); Pete @ Sandy Hook Field Sparrow (very far north); David 2 Oystercatchers; one had band from Georgia; Dave Y parulas, proth, winter wren at NNP; Shawn (Florida) young Anhingas being fed.
4. ID Challenge: Shawn used photos from his recent trip to Florida for the challenge: Great Blue Heron (white morph); Eurasian Collared Doves allopreening; White-eyed Vireo.
5. Reports:
	1. President:
		1. Requests two non-board members to oversee the annual election which will be held in May. Please contact the President if you’d like to volunteer.
		2. Many current Board members willing to continue, but at a minimum we will need a new Board Member; Publicity committee chair is still open.
	2. Membership: Nothing significant to report.
	3. Hospitality: Thanked those who brought snacks. Sunday, June 11 will be the date of the picnic; planning to serve food at 12:30. Bring a dish to share; contact Jane to volunteer to bring food and/or assist. More details forthcoming in May-June Newsletter and at May meeting.
	4. Publicity: Deadline for Newsletter input is April 25.
	5. Website: Not present.
	6. Treasurer: Not present.
	7. Field Trips: 23 April Great Dismal Swamp; meet at Washington Ditch at 7:00.
6. Open Discussion:
	1. Club Spring Big Day April 29th (Dave Youker). Bird anywhere in Virginia; report list of species observed to Dave.
	2. Spring Bird Count May 6th (Bill Boeh). Bill had to move several sectors to April 29 to enable leaders to be available. Contact Bill if you’d like to volunteer.
7. Speaker’s Notes: “Machicomico State Park--A special meeting place” by Emily Harlan.
8. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by: William Boeh, Secretary

Approved by: Dr. Shawn Dash, President

Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023

1. The meeting was held at Sandy Bottom Nature Park and called to order at 7:08 p.m. There were 22 attendees.
2. New members/visitors: None.
3. Bird Sightings: Pete Peterman observed a Red Knot that was not in breeding plumage at Grandview during the spring count. James Abbot advised there was a Common Loon in the Hampton River and a Red-breasted Merganser at Fort Monroe. Michael Meyer advised there were Gull-billed Terns and Black Skimmers at Fort Monroe. Bill Boeh had a Cedar Waxwing at his water feature and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at his feeder, and a Black-throated Blue Warbler in his yard. Tom Charlock observed an Indigo Bunting at home; Shawn had an immature Bald Eagle perching in a tree outside his bedroom window.
4. ID Challenge: Gull-billed Tern; Willet; Forster’s Tern.
5. Reports:
	1. President: The President advised that we would be voting on the slate of nominees for the club’s officers, directors, and chairpersons of standing committees.
	2. Membership: nothing new to report.
	3. Hospitality: Thanked those who brought snacks. Picnic Sunday June 11, pot luck. Parker Pavilion SBNP. Contact Jane to coordinate what to bring. See newsletter for details.
	4. Publicity: No chair.
	5. Website: nothing new to report.
	6. Treasurer: nothing new to report.
	7. Field Trips: May trip was to Richmond; very successful trip with 13 warblers observed, including a Bay-breasted Warbler which was a life bird for several members. Chair is working on next year’s calendar now. Planning to visit many of the same sites as this year, possibly the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel in January, and the Eastern Shore/Chincoteague in September.
6. Election of club officers, directors, and chairpersons of the standing committees: The President presented the slate of nominees below; he noted there was still no nominee for publicity chair:

President - Dr. Shawn T. Dash

Vice President - Mark Sopko

Secretary - William Boeh

Treasurer - John Adair

Board Member (7/22-6/25) - Michael Meyer

Board Member (7/21-6/24) - Katrina Dash

Board Member (7/20-6/23) - Pete Peterman

Newsletter Editor - Tom Charlock

Website Editors - Ellis and Wendy Maxey

Field Trip Coordinator - James Abbott

Hospitality - Jane Frigo,

Publicity - no nominee

Membership - Gwen Harris

* 1. The President asked if there were any other nominees; there were none. He then asked if anyone would make a motion to accept the slate of nominees. Bill Boeh made a motion to accept the slate as presented; the motion was seconded; and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
1. Open Discussion:
	1. HRBC Big Birding Day results were presented.
2. Speaker’s Notes: “The Relationship Between Agricultural Management and Grassland Birds in Swoope, VA” by Kaitlyn Foster. Kaitlyn has investigated this relationship over the last two planting seasons, and presented her hypotheses, data obtained, and conclusions.
3. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by: William Boeh, Secretary

Approved by: Dr. Shawn Dash, President

Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Sunday, June 11, 2023

1. The club held a picnic at Sandy Bottom Nature Park in lieu of a regular business meeting. No business was conducted. There were 23 attendees. As this was a purely social gathering, no officer or committee chair reports were provided nor was any business conducted or speaker presentation provided.
2. Attendees generously supplied main dishes, side dishes, salads, and desserts. Pre-meal social time was held between 12:00 and 12:30 p.m.; after which Phyllis Roth initiated dining with a short prayer of thanksgiving.
3. The gathering adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Submitted by: William Boeh, Secretary

Approved by: Dr. Shawn Dash, President