

Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. ID Challenge: Dave highlighted distinguishing differences between Black-headed and Bonaparte's Gulls as well as the Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes.
3. EXCOM Member Reports:
 - a. President:
 - i. Nominating Committee: Dave advised that three volunteers are still needed to serve on the committee. Nominees must be identified by the May meeting at which the 2016-2017 Board Members will be elected. Contact Dave if interested in serving on the committee and/or as a Board Member.
 - ii. Dave reviewed several upcoming events:
 1. VSO annual meeting will be Apr 29 – May 1 in Roanoke.
 2. The Club's Spring Bird Count will be held on May 7.
 - iii. Dave advised the membership regarding the letter sent by the Board to Delegate Helsel and Governor McAuliffe regarding the Black Vulture legislation now before the Virginia General Assembly. A brief discussion ensued regarding the legislation and the potential for setting a bad precedent by its passage.
 - iv. Dave gave a quick overview of the Western Marshes Important Bird Area (IBA), and asked club members to volunteer to conduct periodic bird counts at IBA sites (ideally at least quarterly). Dave will provide training and orientation as needed.
 - b. Field Trip Coordinator:
 - i. Stuart advised that the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel & Cape Charles trip is scheduled for February 27. Currently 15 slots are taken, but Stuart will ask for a second 15-member group if enough members sign up. The cost will be approximately \$10 per person. Call or email Stuart if you would like to go on this trip. See the Newsletter for details.
 - ii. The False Cape/Back Bay field trip originally scheduled for January will take place on March 12.
 - c. Hospitality: Katrina needs three volunteers to provide snacks for the March meeting. Note—Katrina will be starting a night class on Thursdays so she will not be attending meetings. Shawn will serve as her POC. Please let her know ASAP if you'd like to volunteer.
 - 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: Jessica asked for members to post more pictures on the Facebook page and encouraged all to like or share the page to expand its audience. Also, see the HRBC Facebook page for a photo of new members John and Kim Hogan.
- h. Open discussion:
 - i. Club CVWO Representative (Andy Hawkins): Andy advised the spring Hawk Watch was underway at the College Creek overlook. Generally observers are there between 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M., but the start/end times are weather dependent. On good days dozens of raptors of various species can be seen (2015 spring count totaled 1780 birds/17 species). If you'd like to participate contact Andy for details.
 - ii. Stuart Sweetman advised that there were Bald Eagles frequenting a nest site in the between Hampton Roads Parkway and Butler Farm Road, across from Gateway Blvd. Hopefully they will remain there and breed.
 - iii. Bill Boeh advised that the York River Group of the Sierra Club will host presentations on two local development projects on Wed, Feb 17, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Sandy Bottom Nature Center. The presentations will examine the how the Poquoson Legacy development project would impact wetlands and pose flooding risks to residents, and how to prevent commercial development of Newport News City Farm's 58 acres of public land on the James River and incorporate the land into Riverview Farm Park.
- 4. Guest Speaker: Our very own Shawn Dash gave a presentation entitled "Love is in the Air", focusing on on avian reproductive behavior.
- 5. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.
- 6. Next meeting will be Thursday, March 10, at the usual time and place--6:30 PM, Sandy Bottom Park.