

Hampton Roads Bird Club  
General Meeting Minutes  
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.
2. Shawn Dash opened the meeting by asking if there were any guests or new members. In fact, there were four new members who joined just before the meeting started. The new members and visitors introduced themselves and most were Virginia Master Gardeners and Virginia Master Naturalists.
3. EXCOM Member Comments:
  - a. President: Shawn invited bird sightings and there were several including: Jane Frigo mentioned there is a large Bald Eagle nest in the Yorktown Battlefield area; and Andy Hawkins noting that Eastern Bluebirds are beginning to scout out the BB boxes on the Newport News Park golf course BB trail. Shawn presented the bird ID challenge (1-Black-throated Sparrow—common in the SW-US, and 2-Wilson’s Snipe).
  - b. Field Trip Coordinator: Andy Hawkins provided details for the February 18<sup>th</sup> field trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel islands. The HRBC group of 15 are will visit islands 2 through 4 with a security escort by tunnel guards departing from the south toll plaza parking lot. Andy will send out information on carpooling next week.
  - a. Hospitality: Jane thanked those who responded to her appeal last month to sign up for snacks and drinks for March/April/May meetings. She says there are still a few positions available. Jane asked everyone to thank this week’s refreshment providers, Gwen Harris, Virginia Boyles, and Dianne Snyder.
  - b. Membership: Four new members were introduced earlier.
  - c. Newsletter Editor: In Tom’s absence, Shawn recommended anyone with articles for the next newsletter send them to Tom promptly.
  - d. Treasurer: No updates to present.
  - e. Publicity: On Jessica’s behalf, Shawn recommended everyone track and post happenings on the HRBC Facebook page.
  - f. Open discussion: Jane Frigo reported on the annual January bird count in Newport News Park that took place with good participation on January 22. Due to overcast chilly weather in a slight drizzle, the count was lower than the typical Sunday walks. Still, there were 42 species and 1,655 individual birds counted.
4. Guest Speaker: Shawn spent some time to present a talk that was useful for beginning birders to understand the background information as it relates to the format of field guides. Shawn talked with the group about bird evolution and how species and their evolution relate to birding. He discussed features that can be used to inform our observations of birds and things to consider as we learn about birds. Making a point that birding should be more than

just learning characters but also understanding biology; Shawn encourage the group to consider form and function of the bird.

5. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.
6. Next Club meeting will be March 9, 2017, 6:30 PM, Sandy Bottom Park.