

Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. ID Challenge: House Finch (male & female); Purple Finch (male & female); Orange-crowned warbler. Dave highlighted differences between the finch species to facilitate accurate identification.
3. EXCOM Member Reports:
 - a. President:
 - i. Dave presented the list of past HRBC presidents since the club's inception in 1951. This list was presented to illustrate that a virtually complete record of Club minutes and newsletters had been compiled. These records can be made available for club members to review via their current caretakers (club Secretary and Newsletter Chairperson).
 - ii. Dave reviewed several upcoming area events:
 1. VSO Virginia Beach field trip, 4-6 December
 2. HRBC Christmas Party, 10 December
 3. HRBC Christmas Bird Count, 19 December
 4. Williamsburg Bird Club Christmas Bird Count, 20 December (HRBC members are welcome to participate in Williamsburg's CBC).
 - iii. Dave introduced Jeremy Nelson, whom he will be mentoring this year on a project involving our Western Shore Marshes IBA.
 - b. Field Trip Coordinator: Stuart described the upcoming trip to New Kent and Gloucester (14 November). See the Newsletter for details.
 - c. Hospitality: Katrina provided a sign-up sheet for the club Christmas Party. She requested that anyone planning to attend advise her no later than December 1.
 - d. Membership: Gwen requested comments or recommendations regarding the club's membership packet, which is provided to all new members.
 - e. Newsletter Editor: Nothing of significance to report.
 - f. Treasurer: Nothing of significance to report.
 - g. Publicity: Nothing of significance to report.
 - h. Open discussion:
 - i. Bill Boeh and Tom Charlock reiterated that they had initiated a petition to the City of Newport News to retain public ownership of the City Farm as an augmentation to Riverview Farm Park. A paper copy of the petition was offered for members to sign. An online petition is posted for electronic signature at : <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/dont-let-the-city-farm-fall-into-the-hands-of-developers.html>.

- ii. Tom advised that the Newport News Planning Commission would discuss disposition of the property at their meeting on November 18 and that he would attend that meeting.
4. Guest Speaker: Our very own Jessica Ausura (aka the Bird Nerd) gave a presentation on providing a welcoming environment for birds in your backyard, as well as her experience writing her column for the Daily Press. Jessica shared some of her (and Ernie's) great backyard bird pictures. More of Jessica's photos can be viewed at the Daily Press website (<http://www.dailypress.com/features/family/home-garden/dp-fea-bird-nerd-photo-gallery-photogallery.html>).
5. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.
6. Next meeting will be the HRBC Christmas Party, Thursday, December 10, at the usual time and place--6:30 PM, Sandy Bottom Park.