

Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, October 8, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. ID Challenge: Clay-colored Sparrow; female Blue-winged Teal; Black-throated Green Warbler (female/juvenile).
3. EXCOM Member Reports:
 - a. President:
 - i. Dave reviewed the results of the recent survey of HRBC members regarding club activities:
 1. Survey question: Which programs/speaker topics would you like to see at HRBC meetings (informational, research, and excursion reports)?
 - a. Responses (in descending order of number of votes):
 - i. Informational received 51%
 - ii. Research received 37%
 - iii. Excursion reports received 12%
 2. Survey question: Time frame for meetings is?
 - a. Response: Virtually unanimous that timing is right
 3. Survey question: How important the following events are to you: Meetings, Field Trips, Sunday Walks, Party & Picnic (tie), and Overnight trips.
 - a. Responses (weighted priority order) [ranking by 1st place votes]:
 - i. Meetings - [1] very important
 - ii. Field Trips - [2]
 - iii. Summer Picnic - [4] tie
 - iv. Christmas Party - [4] tie
 - v. Sunday Walks - [3]
 - vi. Overnight Trips - [6] not important
 4. Survey question: To what locations would you like HRBC to lead field trips?
 - a. Responses (in descending order of number of votes):
 - i. Continue tidal areas
(Eastern Shore, Back Bay, Craney, Pleasure House Pt)
 - ii. Inland areas
(Dismal Swamp, Dutch Gap, Beaverdam)
 - iii. Further locations: Warbler Road, Tucson, Brownsville
 - ii. Survey question: What do you suggest as means for community/conservation outreach by the HRBC?

- a. Responses (in descending order of number of votes):
 - i. Partner with other organizations (e.g., Master Naturalists, Nature Conservancy, VSO, other bird clubs)
 - ii. Western Shore Marshes IBA
 - iii. Trail maintenance (Matteson Trail)
- iii. Dave announced several upcoming area events:
 1. Eastern Shore Birding Festival, October 9-11
 2. VSO Virginia Beach field trip, 4-6 December
 3. HRBC Christmas Party, 10 December
 4. Christmas Bird Count, 19 December
- iv. 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 trips, including the Kiptopeke/Eastern Shore (October 17), and New Kent area in November. See the Newsletter for details.
- c. Hospitality: Sean, on behalf of Katrina, thanked everyone who provided snacks for the meeting, and requested that members volunteer to provide snacks for the November meeting.
- d. Newsletter Editor: Nothing of significance to report.
- e. Treasurer: Nothing of significance to report.
- f. Publicity: Not present.
- g. Open discussion:
 - i. Bill Boeh and Tom Charlock have generated 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 as desired. 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>.
 - a. Guest Speakers: Karen Roberts, of the Virginia Beach SPCA Wildlife Rehabilitation Program, and Dana Lusher, manager of Nature's Nanny Wildlife Rehabilitation, provided a presentation on their experiences rehabilitating wild birds and animals and advice on how you can assist an injured bird, animal, or abandoned nestling. Finally, Dana provided everyone with an extra special treat by presenting Shadow, a non-releasable Great Horned Owl, now used as an "education bird".
4. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.
5. Next meeting will be held Thursday, November 12, at the usual time and place--6:30 PM, Sandy Bottom Park.