



Hampton Roads Bird Club
General Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, November 11, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. There were 14 attendees at the start and later there were 24 attendees.
2. Bird Sightings: Shawn Dash is in new location on a creek after recent move and has been hearing Great Horned Owls. One night, he saw a Great Horned Owl swoop down and hit a Mallard in the water! Shawn also has added that Harry Colestock reported back yard sightings of Common Goldeneye, Common Loon, Bufflehead and Merlin. Wendy and Ellis Maxey reported seeing Tundra Swan, 129 Brown Pelican fly by in a single line, and Northern Gannets at their beach house in Sandbridge. Walt and Gwen Harris reported having a Barred Owl in their back yard. Ryan Walsh reports he and James Abbott observed the Heermann's Gull at the Hopewell City Marina. Lesley Meng reported a large number of Cormorants on the powerline pylons along James River Bridge.
3. ID Challenge: Shawn has been seeing ducks out his home office front window. The duck ID challenges this month initially showed only an extended wing, followed by additional body parts until the duck was identified: 1) Mallard, 2) Bufflehead, 3) White-winged Scoter, 4) Gadwall. More challenging ducks with similar color/shaped wings included: 1) Cinnamon Teal, 2) Northern Shoveler, 3) Blue-winged Teal.
4. Reports:
 - a. President: The photo contest is still going, so send photos to Michael Meyer or Katrina Dash and the winners will be featured on the Facebook page as a slideshow and in the next newsletter.
 - b. Hospitality: Not present.
 - c. Newsletter: Tom thanked James Abbott for submitting three articles and John Adair for submitting one. The photo contest winners last period were Harold Atkins, Lynn Chandler, and Pete Peterman. The next newsletter will be coming out January 1, 2022 and inputs should be submitted by December 25th.
 - d. Membership: No new members at this meeting.
 - e. Publicity: Not present.
 - f. Website: Ellis Maxey reports that the web site is up to date, having recently added some newly submitted items.
 - g. Treasurer: No report.

- h. Field Trip Coordinator: James Abbott described upcoming trips. The November 27 field trip will be Fort Monroe, which is a good winter location to find the Common Eider, Long-tailed Duck, and possibly the Razorbill. Back Bay has begun running the tram, and James contacted the ranger there for a late February visit. For January, James is considering a boat trip out of Norfolk to visit the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel if there is enough interest. James will check with the captain to see how many are needed to make the price reasonable. Late April should be a good time for a visit to Craney Island. Craney is managed by the Army Corps of Engineers and James has made initial contact with them.

5. Open Discussion:

- a. Christmas Bird Count: Shawn Dash talked through the CBC slides pointing out the circle of sectors and the date of the count, Saturday, December 18, 2021. He encouraged everyone to contact Bill Boeh to participate in the count.

6. Speaker's Notes: Dr. Victoria (Vikki) Milne, El Paso Zoo veterinarian, provided a presentation on the rehabilitation of raptors. As the only resource in the area capable of handling raptors, the zoo took on the task of raptor rehab without additional resources in 2015. They rehabilitate 100-150 raptors of 20 species each year; the majority are American Kestrel, Barn Owl, Swainson's Hawk, and Great Horned Owl. Each individual must recover to perfect flight prior to release due to the already harsh environment they face. The successful release rate of around 50 percent is better than most other rehab centers.

7. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Submitted by: John Adair, acting Secretary

Approved by: Dr. Shawn Dash, President