Hampton Roads Bird Club  
General Meeting Minutes  
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. There were 21 attendees.
2. Bird Sightings: Lesley Meng is seeing many backyard species at her feeders; Dave Youker seeing American Redstart and Black-and-white Warbler at his feeder; Kaitlyn Clark may have seen Gull-billed Terns. Bill Boeh saw multiple Tricolored Herons while kayaking on the Warwick River last month.
3. ID Challenge: Shawn was in the northwest recently, so the theme for this meeting was the coastal Oregon birds that he observed: Rhinoceros Auklet; Pigeon Guillemot; Tufted Puffin.
4. Monthly Photo Contest: Shawn advised that members can send photos to Michael Meyer for the first contest this year. Deadline for submission is the Tuesday before the October meeting.
5. Reports:
   1. President: Sunday walks continue at Newport News Park. Noland Trail walks will take place the last Sunday of Sep-Oct (and possibly November); meet at Lion’s Bridge at 7:00 a.m. The club is also leading walks in support of the Hampton City Library; contact Shawn Dash if you’d like to support this outreach effort.
   2. Hospitality: Shawn thanked Jane Frigo and Dianne Sawyer for their work on the June picnic.
   3. Newsletter: Tom Charlock thanked all the authors for their submissions to the current newsletter. The deadline for submission to November-December newsletter is 25 October.
   4. Membership: New members attending included Lesley Meng, Gary Wright, June Hartzler, Kaitlyn Clark, Twila Blume, Eric Matthews. Gwen Harris welcomed the new members. Details on dues payment for this year were provided by the Treasurer, including how to submit your dues payments online.
   5. Publicity: Not present.
   6. Website: Shawn thanked the Maxey’s for their work on the website; requested members send any submissions to them. Shawn also encouraged all to post on our Facebook page.
   7. Treasurer:
      1. 2021-2022 Budget: The Treasurer reviewed the viewed the details of the proposed budget, along with current bank balance and projected income (all income projected to be from dues, therefore all Club activities and donations depend entirely on our dues). Bill Boeh moved that the budget be approved as presented. The motion was seconded and adopted by acclamation; none opposed.
      2. 2020-2021 Education Fund. The Treasurer advised that this year’s Education Fund will be granted to Kaitlyn Foster, a CNU senior and master’s program student. Her thesis is on grassland birds breeding in grazing areas in Virginia, focusing on what type of crop rotation is beneficial, and when to avoid harvesting hay to minimize impact to nesting birds.
   8. Field Trip Coordinator: Not present, but Shawn provided details for the Hog Island trip on 12 September, and noted that the October trip will be to the Eastern Shore (Oct 23). Shawn asked all to please be responsible and observe social distancing requirements.
6. Open Discussion:
   1. Club face masks. Project undertaken by Michael Meyer and Katrina Dash to research a proposal to buy face masks with the club logo on it. The masks would be available for purchase by members, and would be presented to guest speakers and attendees at Hampton Library events. Prices for the masks will be researched and provided to the Executive Committee to decide if and how many to purchase.
   2. Big Virginia Birding Day: Dave Youker provided details on the Big Virginia Birding Day that will take place on Oct 9. If you participate, send your species count to Dave. Dave also advised that the Kiptopeake Challenge will be held on Sept 25; several members are participating; you can also sponsor a team; see newsletter for details.
   3. Bill Boeh advised that the Christmas Bird Count will be December 18, 2021; please see newsletter article; an email solicitation for participation is forthcoming.
7. Speaker’s Notes: “Insects the Uncelebrated Partners of the Bird World” by Dr. Shawn Dash. This talk focused on unraveling the complex interactions and interdependent natural history of birds and insects. It looked at insects in the context of avian biology, including feeding, parasites, to the importance of insects in your yard and garden.
8. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by: William Boeh, Secretary

Approved by: Dr. Shawn Dash, President

Hampton Roads Bird Club

General Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. There were 12 attendees.

2. Bird Sightings: Mark Sopko spotted American Golden Plovers at Bethel Beach—a life bird for Mark. Bill Boeh heard a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in his yard today. James Abbott saw two Sora Rails at his property (first ever there). Dave Youker had an Ovenbird in his yard, feeding from feeder this week, and has also seen Northern Parulas as well as Black-throated Blue, Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers coming through.

3. ID Challenge: Sean used a Halloween theme, with “spooky” birds: American Crow; Common Raven; Great Gray Owl; Oilbird; Great Potoo.

4. Reports:

a. President: No issues.

b. Membership: No new members at this meeting.

c. Publicity: Not present; the President expressed the hope that members are sending in pictures for the monthly photo contest.

d. Newsletter: Not present; President asked all to contribute articles by October 25th.

e. Hospitality: Not present.

f. Website: Not present. President said the website has shown to be effective for outreach; people in the community are contacting club via the website for outreach support.

g. Treasurer: Reminded all to pay your annual dues if you haven’t already.

h. Field Trip Coordinator: The October trip will be to the Eastern Shore (Oct 23). Meet at Eastern Shore NWR Visitor’s Center at 7:00 a.m. Please advise James Abbott by email or text if you intend to go.

5. Open Discussion:

a. HRBC Big Virginia Birding Day (Oct 9th): Dave Youker provided a report on the day’s results; unfortunately participation was much lower this year than last. Dave suggested we conduct the event in November so more species are present (such as ducks) which hopefully will spark more participation.

b. Bill Boeh reminded all that the Christmas Bird Count will be December 18, 2021; please consider participating. Contact Bill (see newsletter article). The President echoed Bill’s request, and noted that some of his students are using the club’s spring bird count data for analysis.

6. Speaker’s Notes: Alicia Garcia, Joint Base Langley-Eustis Langley Natural Resources Manager, provided a presentation on the birds and wildlife on base property; the base’s efforts to adapt to climate change; and the management of resident native plants and animals, including efforts to prevent collisions between birds and aircraft operating from the base.

7. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Submitted by: William Boeh, Secretary

Approved by: Dr. Shawn Dash, President



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, Longtailed

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