

**The Village Birders Annual Meeting**  
**March 23, 2013**

**President**, Lyn Comans called the Annual Meeting of the Village Birders to order at 9:05 am on Saturday, March 23, 2013 at the Paradise Recreation Center. She thanked the current officers and committee chair of the Executive Board for their service. Each officer and chair was asked to briefly explain their duties as they presented reports. President Comans encouraged attendees to consider volunteering for one of the positions in the future to continue the work of our club.

**Vice President**, Peg Condon reported that our club participated in The Villages 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Outdoor Expo. She thanked those who helped set up the display at La Hacienda Rec Center. The two day event provided opportunity to speak to many Villagers and answer questions regarding local birds, including what to feed birds and how to handle those that appear to have been hurt. Peg thanked club members who worked at our booth, stating that all who signed up, showed up.

**Secretary's Report** - Marcy Klepinger read the minutes of the March 24, 2012 Annual Meeting. The minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** - Steve Norton reported a balance of \$1,246.07 as of December 31, 2011. 2012 Income totaled \$2,261.38, with Expenses at \$1,589.54. The balance as of December 31, 2012 is \$1,917.91. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. A committee has been appointed to audit the books.

As **Historian**, Steve explained that he keeps information from bird walks with regard to species of birds seen. His list also includes first sightings. Steve will post the year end list on the Yahoo Site.

Kathy Hansen, **Membership Chair**, reported that we currently have 176 renewed members and 40 new members. Several new members introduced themselves. Kathy reminded members that name badges are available for order at \$6.00 each.

The **Bird Walk Chair**, Linda Felker, explained that the committee is charged with planning the almost weekly bird trips. Committee members include Mary Lou Miller, Kris St. Germain, Gert Schaffer and Margie Thalberg. Kris has taken over the assignment of getting walk directions to leaders. Linda thanked the following leaders for their dedication and expertise, Jim Dinsmore, Barb Gay, Alice Horst, Paul Nistico and Steve Norton. She explained that committee members and guides spend time scouting areas at various times of the year in order to provide the best venues for birding.

Elaine Kersey, **Education Chair**, recapped the list of speakers we have had at meetings during the last year. In October, Dr. Lyn Sumerson of Clearwater Audubon spoke on "Birds of the Bible"; Vince Morris spoke about the Red Cockaded Woodpecker at the November meeting; Norman Lantz provided "Birding by Ear Part I" in January; and in February, Lyn Comans provided insight into Avian Zoonotic Diseases and Gary Robbins shared pictures of wildlife from his back yard camera. This year's program list will end in April with Gary Babic

speaking about Birds of Madagascar.

**Website Chair**, Barb Athanasiou, continues to work to improve the information provided on the club website. She is currently working to upgrade the Dreamweaver software used to maintain our site. Barb is designing a handout with club information including club contacts, bird walk schedule and birding basics. This leaflet will be available in the Fall.

Charlie Martin was previously the editor of our printed newsletter, Cheep Talk, which was discontinued after the March publication. Charlie opened **The Village Birders Yahoo Group** in March, 2012 to provide a more immediate delivery of birding and club news to the members. During the past year, more than 450 messages were posted, many of them included photos. All paid members of The Village Birders are eligible to participate in this Yahoo Group. As Chair, Charlie receives many comments from members who enjoy receiving pictures and notices of bird sightings in The Villages. He thanked all those who have contributed.

#### **Old Business -**

Alice Horst reminded us that the Annual Picnic is scheduled on Sunday, April 14, 2013 at Lake Panasoffkee Wildlife Management Area. A bird walk will begin at 8:00 am; lunch is planned for 11:00 am. Members planning to attend should bring a dish to share and their own beverages. Directions will be posted on our website. She also stated that the Fort Desoto Bird Trip is planned for April 25; information regarding directions and meeting time and place are forthcoming.

#### **New Business -**

Karen Martin of the Nominating Committee placed the name of Ken Uslabar as nominee to replace President, Lyn Comans. Kathy Porter made a motion to close the nominations and have the Secretary cast ballot for Ken Uslabar for President. Motion carried.

A suggestion was made that we attempt to get more club articles in The Villages' Daily Sun. Contacts will be made.

Questions arose about areas within The Villages to find birds. Linda Felker mentioned that Birding The Villages is on our schedule. There have been several areas mentioned on the Yahoo Site of bird sightings.

Al Roush stated that, based upon radar information, there are signs of bird migration from the South. Members are encouraged to watch for the updates.

The meeting was adjourned by President, Ken Uslabar at 10:00 am. Coffee and donuts were offered as well as birding materials for members to pick up.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcy Klepinger