

The Village Birders Annual Meeting

February 18, 2017

The Annual General Membership Meeting of the Village Birders was called to order by President Bob Martin at 9:00 am at the Paradise Recreation Center. There were 84 registered attendees.

Bob indicated he did not have a formal report. Dave Felker, Vice President, reported he has need for several more volunteers to help at the Expo on February 25 and 26.

Dan Hewins, Treasurer, reported income for 2016 was \$985, and expenses for speakers, supplies, Expo, picnic and other costs totaled \$700. In addition, donations were made to several bird related organizations in the area including the Animis Foundation, Operation Migration and Alachua Audubon Society for Sweetwater Wetlands Park. End of 2016 bank balance was \$3010.

John Eckstein, Secretary, indicated the members received a copy of minutes from the March 19, 2016 Village Birders Annual Meeting along with the announcement of this year's meeting. It was agreed to dispense with reading those minutes. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes.

Linda Felker, Chair, did not have a formal report from the Bird Walk and Special Events Committee. Kathy Hansen, Chair of Membership, reported there are currently over 200 members. She also indicated those previously ordering name badges should pick them up at the back of the room after the meeting. Steve Norton, Historian, keeps a list of birds seen on official bird walks. He indicated that the Hill Myna was added to this list in 2016.

The business part of the annual meeting was adjourned at 9:12 am.

John Affleck asked for a moment of silence for Fred Nemergut, who died last month.

Barb Gay reminded members of the February 22, bird walk at the Ocklawaha Restoration Area.

Bob reminded members of the February 27, bird walk at Sweetwater Wetlands. He also indicated Nancy Dwyer will talk about threatened species at the March 18, Monthly Meeting.

Bob introduced Paul Nistico, who gave a talk on Birding Alaska's West Coast. Paul birded with a small, but very experienced bird tour group. They birded mainly St. Lawrence Island (Gambell), the area around Nome, around Anchorage, and St. Paul Island. They experienced a wide variety of weather conditions from cold and windy to warm and calm. Paul shared an abundance of fabulous pictures taken during the venture. He saw 157 different species during the trip, 27 of which were added to his life list. He passed the milestone of his 700th life list bird during this trip.

The meeting was completed at about 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted: John Eckstein, Secretary