

Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 11/10/2022

- Vice President of Programs Kathy Byers: Call to Order: The in person November meeting of RBC will please come to order. (time: 7:01pm at the Park View Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall.

- **Old Business**

-Kathy dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the October meeting. No one objected. She mentioned that if you want to read the meeting minutes, you can access them online through the RBC website.

-She thanked Bill and Martha for their hard work on the name tags. It made it helpful to remember faces and names.

-Before talking about the Bird Seed Sale, Kathy wanted to share some fun facts about feeders. She used the book *What is it like to be a Bird?* by David Sibley as her source. Kathy highly recommended the book as it has great pictures and all kinds of good information. According to Sibley, bird feeders do not make birds lazy, as birds still get half of their food from the wild. Feeders are supplemental tool, helping them through extreme weather with little impact on their survival. Also, Kathy mentioned from the book that feeders will not keep birds from migrating, as other environmental and biological factors are in play. In fact, feeders might actually encourage migration!

-Next, Kathy said that Saturday November 12th would be the pick up day for bird seed at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds. If you are not available to pick it up then, then you can pick it up at Kathy's house.

-Kathy asked if there were any new visitors. Bonnie and Henry Bowser introduced themselves. They live in Park View and work with Audrey Shenk.

- **Recent Bird Sightings**

-Linda: she and her husband sighted a Red Breasted Nuthatch by Park View-never seen one before!

-Anne Nielsen: Bird sit with Roger Peterson's son; Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy and Downy Woodpecker sat side by side by feeder

-Ronald King: Saw at least six bluebirds every day while visiting Vienna Virginia

- **Reports from Executive Committee**

-Kathy: We have a new president Mike Donaldson! He will be starting in January 2023, moving to the area in 2019 from Silver Spring, MD with his wife Linda. They decided to take birding more seriously when they moved here. Afterwards Mike stood up saying that he was truly honored and excited to take on this new role He thank Kathy for her encouragement as well as a general thank you to everyone in the club. Everyone has been so welcoming. Diane Lepkowski, Vice President of Field Trips, came up to the front and presented Mike with a welcoming gift: the "last copy" of the 1st edition of the Birds of Rockingham County book. Mike said it helped him find a lot of birds.

Audrey Shenk (Treasurer): She is on a trip and not present at this meeting. Kathy reminded everyone to pay dues, which can be paid at the front after the meeting. Audrey arranged our audit of our books. All our paperwork came out quite well and she thanked Cindy and Levon Smoker for auditing it.

Art Fovargue (Club Historian): Nothing new to report.

Diane: She started off by mentioned a short notice field trip for Tuesday night to see the Saw Whet Owls at Bank Station. Also, there will be a field trip to Hillandale Park on Thursday November 17th with Tom Mizell. They will meet at 8:30am at the Main Shelter #12. Finally, Jay and Sharon Landis are leading hikes at their place at Starry Meadows on Tuesday November 29th. You will need to get in touch with them as there will be limited participants for this trip.

Diane also thanked Debbie Harrison, former president, who stepped down in June 2022. She served the club for eight years, being the glue that held us together. Debbie also led field trips consistently which included the banding station for the Saw Whet Owls, Bald Eagles and the Christmas Bird Count. Diane called Debbie up to the front to make her an honorary life member. Also, Diane presented Debbie with restaurant gift certificates and a thank you card.

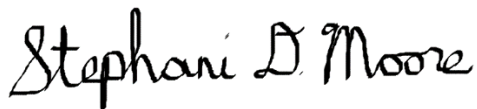
Bill Benish (Christmas Bird Count Coordinator): The Christmas Bird Count will be on Saturday December 17th this year. Fortunately, lots of leaders are available again. Some people like to have someone ride with them and they need bird feeder watchers. Please let Bill know ahead of time. He will need to specifically make arrangements to count it into the data in advance. If you are interested in participating, then let him know. His contact information is in the newsletter.

- **Announcements?**

- Our next in person meeting is Wednesday December 7th, 2022, which is different from the normal meeting time of the 2nd Thursday of every month.
- Anything else to come before the meeting? No
- Adjourn (If there is no objection and no further business to come before the meeting tonight, the meeting will be adjourned.)
- Meeting Adjourned @ 7:22 pm

Kathy introduced our Speaker for this meeting: Clair Mellinger presenting: “Northern Saw-Whet Owls in Western Virginia.”

Total Participants: 33



Stephani D. Moore
November 13, 2022