

Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 12/7/2022

- Vice President of Programs Kathy Byers: Call to Order: The in person December meeting of RBC will please come to order. (Time: 7:03pm at the Park View Mennonite Church Sanctuary)

- **Old Business**

She mentioned the quick change of venue to Sanctuary as well as the cookies in the vestibule. Kathy also dispensed with the reading of minutes from last meeting with no objections.

When she asked if any visitors were present, Andrew Troyer stood up, noting that he was a visitor to the area.

- **Recent Bird Sightings**

-MacGillivray's Warber: Diane Lepkowski reported this extremely rare bird, which was spotted at Lake Shenandoah this week by many birders. For more information, check out her Facebook page. Also, Lakota took some photos of this particular bird.

-Bill Benish: He and Robyn saw some Evening Grosbeaks in their yard.

-Kathy: She saw a Brown Creeper in her back yard.

- **Reports from Executive Committee**

-Mike Donaldson (Incoming President): Currently, he is out of town and he will be inaugurated in January 2023.

-Kathy Byers (Vice President of Programs): She gave a big thank you to everyone who worked on bird seed sale with the pick up at the Fairgrounds, making suet cakes, etc. Kathy especially thanked Audrey for doing the online spreadsheet for it.

-Audrey Shenk (Treasurer): She gave a quick reminder of membership dues.

-Art Fovargue (Club Historian): He made a little progress in meeting with the head of Special Collections at JMU last week. In January, he will take RBC meeting minutes, scrapbooks, and past Goldfinch Gazettes to their archives.

-Diane Lepkowski (Vice President of Field Trips): She had 12 members attend the Highland Station field trip to see the Saw Whet Owls. It was their best day with 14 birds being caught on the first trip and 12 birds on the second trip with a total of 28-29 birds. They also had a couple of recaptures that had been banded at another station.

Two Hillendale Park field trips with Tom Mizell. The first one will be on Thursday December 15th at 8:30am. The second trip will be a special Winter Solstice trip on Wednesday December 21st at 3:30pm. She suggested to bring a flashlight to welcome winter around 4:47pm.

Also, Diane mentioned birding will no longer be allowed at the Broadway Wastewater Treatment Plant, due to bad behavior from out of state birders until further notice. Several people are talking to John, the plant manager, to see if birding can be done on a limited/restricted basis. There's also a notice on the club Facebook page.

Finally, Diane talked to Dave Wendelken again about how to incorporate this recent event into the book since he included directions to being a birding hotspot. They hope to have it done by January. She also thanked Robyn, who kicked off the whole project.

-Bill Benish (Christmas Bird Count Coordinator): On Saturday December 17th, there will be the Christmas Bird Count with all of the leaders set up. Also, there's enough people to go with each leader along with feeder watchers in the area as well. If you are interested in participating, contact him. Bill will announce to anyone in the field if we have to postpone anything. Diane also mentioned that there's a new Bald Eagle's nest under construction in the circle of the location of the watchers.

- **Announcements?**

- Our next in person meeting is Thursday January 12th at 7:00 pm; Robyn will be presenting on her South Africa trip.
- 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 @ 7:15 pm

Kathy introduced our Speaker for this meeting: Stephanie Gardner, Special Collections Librarian from Bridgewater College. Her presentation is titled: "When Archives Take Flight: The Bridgewater College Birding Journal, 1918 and 1947-1950."

Total Participants: 22



Stephani D. Moore
December 9, 2022