

Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 01/12/2023

- RBC President Mike Donaldson: Call to Order: The in person January meeting of RBC will please come to order, using a gavel. (Time: 7:01 pm at the Park View Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall.

- **Old Business**

-First of all, Mike put forth a motion to dispense with the reading of last month's meeting minutes. There were no objections from anyone.

-Mike introduced himself as the new president of the club. He is very grateful for this opportunity. He thanked Debbie Harrison for her years of invaluable service and Kathy Byers for her great job as acting president.

-Everyone took a minute to introduce themselves to someone new around them.

-Also, Mike thanked members of the Executive Committee for their support as well as his wife.

-He asked if there were any visitors present at the meeting. Becky Downey introduced herself as a new member.

- **Recent Bird Sightings**

-Debbie Harrison: Two Purple Finches at her bird feeder, one male, one female.

-Diane Lepkowski: Peregrine Falcon spotted in downtown Harrisonburg on the feed mill.

- **Reports from Executive Committee**

Mike: He mainly wanted to talk about hearing from the JMU Arboretum recently. They wanted to help with the Great Backyard Bird Count in mid-February to generate interest in birding. It would be on Saturday February 18th. It would be having presentations on introducing birding, tips on how to get started and basics of feeding birds. It would be orientated toward children or adults. Please see him after meeting if interested or contact him. Also, this information is in the RBC newsletter.

-Robyn Puffenbarger: She said a few words about the Birds of Rockingham County book, which will be out this spring. There's an ISBN number lined up and the publication date/price are to be determined soon. Also, she showed excerpts of the book on the video screen, including the cover.

-Kathy Byers (Vice President of Programs): She will introduce Robyn and she had nothing else to report tonight.

-Diane Lepkowski (Vice President of Field Trips): On Thursday January 19th, there will be a field trip at Hillandale Park at 8:30am. They will be meeting at main shelter #12 by the cul de sac. Kathy will be there as well as Randy Cline. Also, on Saturday January 21st, Randy will be leading a field trip to Lost River, West Virginia. There's a dam there with Bald Eagles; The information is in the newsletter. Be sure to sign up with him ahead of time. Randy suggested the meeting place at the Broadway 7-11 parking lot.

-Audrey Shenk (Treasurer): She just had a reminder to renew membership.

-Art Fovargue (Club Historian): He had nothing to report at this time.

-Bill Benish (Christmas Bird Count Coordinator): He gave the group an overview of the 2022 Christmas Bird Count. Art and Kathy took two sectors as well as Bill. Eric Gorton with the Harrisonburg Citizen, an online news organization did an interview about the Bird Count. This year

saw a lot of cool species with 74 total. (74 species has been the average from the last 14-15 years.) Mike Smith saw a Black Crowned Night Heron at rookery in Dayton. Other birds included one Meadowlark, an Evening Grosbeak (thanks to Annie), Peregrine Falcon, Wilson's Snipe, Palm Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow and Sharp Shinned Hawk. No Grackles or Cedar Waxwings spotted this year. Bill also mentioned that he appreciated the nice weather on that day.

- **Announcements?**

- Our next in person meeting is Thursday February 9th at 7:00pm;
- 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 @ 7:17 pm

Kathy introduced our Speaker for this meeting: Robyn Puffenbarger, Professor at Bridgewater College. Her presentation is titled: "Beautiful South Africa."

Total Participants: 43

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephani D. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephani D. Moore
January 14, 2023