

Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 6/08/2023

- RBC President Mike Donaldson: Call to Order: The in person June meeting of RBC will please come to order, with the gavel. (Time: 7:02pm) at the Park View Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall.

First of all, Mike thanked everyone for bringing all of the delicious food as well as Kathy Byers for organizing the potluck. He was pleased with the turn out this year. Then, he asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of last meeting minutes with no objections. Mike mentioned that there is a copy of the meeting minutes always available on the RBC website as always. There were no objections.

He asked if there was any new members/visitors to this meeting. Bill Benish and Robyn Puffenbarger had their nephews, Luke and Aaron, at the meeting. Henry Hawkins also had his nieces visiting from out of town.

- **Old Business:** None
- **Recent Bird Sightings**
 - Tim Hulings: At the Bridgewater Retirement Community, he spotted a flock of Cedar Waxwings in addition to a Brown Thrasher
 - Joe Shank: He saw Grey Catbirds nesting in bush in addition to a pair of Northern Cardinals.
 - Ken Ranck: Grasshopper Sparrow and Blue Grosbeak.

- **Reports from Executive Committee**

Mike Donaldson (President):

He told everyone about electing a new member at large at the last meeting: Andrew Troyer. Mike asked him to stand up to acknowledge him. Andrew will replace Kathy Fovargue, who finished her term. Current Secretary Stephani Moore and former president Debbie Harrison will also be leaving the Executive Committee. Mike gave many thanks for their service and that they will be missed on the committee.

Also, Mike mentioned that there would be a second printing of the Birds of Rockingham County book. At the August Executive Committee meeting, the members will approve the number of copies. If you are interested in getting a copy, then you can add your name to a sign-up sheet at the name tag table.

Kathy Byers (Vice President of Programs):

It's the last meeting for this year. If you have any ideas or people that you would like to speak for the next year, then please let her know. Kathy also did the report on field trips. For the Hillandale Field trips this summer, she collaborated on dates with Tom Mizell. There will be a change to the June 21st field trip to the time, which everyone will now meet at 10am at Shelter 12. Summer begins at 11am so it's a great opportunity to get the last of the spring birds and the first of the summer birds. The rest of the summer field trips will be on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 8:30am. The dates are July 13th and August 10th.

For the Bird Seed Sale, she will start work this summer. If you have suggestions of what could be sold, please let her know. It will still be at the Rockingham Fairgrounds for pick up. The top seller is homemade suet cakes, made by the Shank families: Annie, Karen and Everette Shank & Joe and Ruth Shank. They purchase these ingredients themselves which include peanut butter, lard, cornmeal, and oats. Both of the

Shank families will receive lifetime memberships due to their efforts in making these suet cakes for the bird seed sales.

Diane Lepkowski (Vice President of Field Trips): Nothing

Audrey Shenk (Treasurer): She said to refer to latest newsletter for her report.

Art Fovargue (Club Historian): Nothing new to report

Bill Benish (Christmas Bird Count Coordinator):

As the number of people using the Merlin ID app is growing, Bill was happy to see that the USGS provided clear guidance while recording the data for the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). Merlin ID is not a designated surveying person and as such, Merlin may not serve as the identification source. The human is the source and the Merlin app may help us only as a reference [similar to a photo]. Similarly, people are the designated surveyors during the CBC (currently administered by Audubon). [Merlin is a tool much like a camera. Merlin is not an official observer.] For both Breeding Bird Surveys and Christmas Bird counts, it will not be acceptable to use just the Merlin app for species identification.

- **New Business:** None

- **Announcements?**

-Joy Beaman has volunteered to handle name tags, taking over from Bill and Martha Faw.

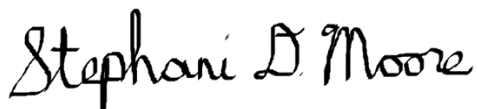
-The club needs someone to volunteer for the Secretary officer position. They take minutes at RBC club meetings and the three Executive Committee meetings each year in addition to help shape club policy. Please let him or any other Executive Committee members if you are interested in taking the position.

- Our next in person meeting is in September.

- 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 @ 7:19 pm

Kathy Byers introduced our Speaker for this meeting: Diane Lepkowski and Greg Moyers presenting “Birding Rockingham County and Beyond, June 2019-May 2023.”

Total Participants: 68



Stephani D. Moore
June 9, 2023