

Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 09/14/2023

- RBC President Mike Donaldson: Call to Order: The in person September meeting of RBC will please come to order, using a gavel. (Time: 7:00 pm) at the Park View Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall.

There being no objections, they dispensed with the reading of the minutes
Any new members/visitors?

Darlene Keller
TK (It stands for Teresa Keesling)
Jerry Scripture (friend of Randy Kline)
Dick and Diane Smith
Sharon Payne, from Singers Glen
Miranda Lyle

- **Old Business:** None.
- **Recent Bird Sightings**
 - Randy Cline saw a Mississippi Kite while he was sitting on his deck.
 - Last week Tim Hulings saw an Osprey in the pond at Purcell Park.
 - One member heard Eastern Whip-poor-wills calling on Monday night
 - Mike Donaldson reported that he saw a Sora at Hillandale Park on Tuesday morning on the Bird Club bird walk. (Some people call those a ‘yellow rail.’) It was a juvenile Sora, without the bright yellow beak. (Kathy, Randy, Bill, and Clair were there.)
 - Mike received the first-ever Golden Feather from field trip leaders Tom Mizell and Kathy Byers for the amazing sighting of the Sora on the Hillandale walk. It was presented by Kathy.

- **Reports from Executive Committee**

Mike Donaldson (President):

- Regarding the *Birds of Rockingham County* book.
- The Executive Committee met on 8/23 and decided to order 150 copies of the book for the upcoming print run.
- They have already placed the order, and the books should be printed by September 22.
- They will price it at \$27.50 for members and \$30.00 for nonmembers. The price includes sales tax.
- They will email the members when the books are for sale on the website, and they will also sell them at Bird Club meeting.

Kathy Byers (Vice President of Programs):

- In October, Sergio Harding from the DWR will update us on the breeding bird atlas.
- In November, Scott Karr will give a talk on feeding birds.
- Nothing planned for December.
- In January, Robyn Puffenbarger will present on “Gardening for Birds.”
- Bird Seed Sale order forms should come out this week in an email or in print form.
 - Three reasons why you should order:
 - It’s our only fundraiser.
 - It allows us to have speakers for our speaker programs.

- It allows us to give to organizations that support conservation and birds
- The seed we offer is this year's crop and there are no fillers.
- We can order Annie's famous homemade Suet cakes.
- Pick up will be at Fair Grounds on Saturday, November 11.
- Everyone was challenged to order one for themselves and one for a friend.
- Bird Seed Sale orders are due Oct. 12.

Diane Lepkowski (Vice President of Field Trips):

- Kathy Byers presented for Diane, who was absent.
- The hawk watch visit for the club is this Saturday.
- Peak migration is next week.
- She'll be there at 9:30AM. People with questions, please email Diane.
- For Hillandale walks, we've had our September walk, but Tom likes to hold walks on the equinox days, so we will have a last day of summer walk on Friday, September 22.
- We generally have a walk at Hillandale on the Tuesdays before the Bird Club meetings.
- All walks start at 8:30AM at Shelter 12.
- Bird walks are attended by people with a range of birding ability, from novice to experts.

Audrey Shenk (Treasurer):

- A reminder to get your membership renewals in. She can take money tonight or submit your membership dues online.
- The club cannot take credit cards in person.

Art Fovargue (Club Historian):

- Present, but nothing to report tonight.

Bill Benish (Christmas Bird Count Coordinator):

- The count can happen anytime 11 days before and after Christmas.
- Generally we try to do it on the first Saturday in the count period, which this year will be December 16.
- They generally select a Saturday to maximize participation.
- The Augusta Christmas Bird Count is moving its count to Sunday.

Denise Hoodock (Newsletter Editor)

- Denise does a fantastic job on the Goldfinch Gazette.
- Thank you for your great work on the newsletter.

Members-at-Large

- Herb Myers, and Andrew Troyer
- Please contact them or any member of the Executive Committee if you need any information.
- **New Business:**

No New business

- **Announcements?**

- Jay Landis is leading a bird walk this Saturday morning at 8:30AM at Starry Meadows; They will also be getting more dates together for October.
- Anne Nielsen: Three years ago, many of us were involved in the fight to preserve the seabird colonies that had been nesting just off Hampton Roads, and the work on the new tunnels was displacing them. We managed to persuade Governor Northam to intervene, and they found a place for the birds at Ft. Wolf, and the colonies are growing.
- Mike Donaldson emphasized that we remain in need of someone to step up and volunteer for the Secretary position.
 - Take minutes at club meetings and at Executive Committee meetings.
 - The Secretary is a voting member and helps shape policies and initiatives.
 - Please consider nominating yourself or someone you know.
 - Next club meeting is October 12th at 7PM (always the second Thursday at 7PM)
 - Our next in person meeting is October 12 at 7 pm at Park View Mennonite Church.
- Anything else to come before the meeting?
- Adjourn (If there is no objection and no further business to come before the meeting tonight, the meeting will be adjourned.)
- Meeting Adjourned @ 7:23 pm

Kathy Byers introduced our presenter for this meeting: Linda Miller, “The Galapagos Islands”

Total Participants: 49

Minutes recorded by Linda Plitt Donaldson
September 14, 2023