

Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 12/14/2023

RBC President Mike Donaldson: Call to Order: The in-person December meeting of RBC will please come to order. (Time: 7:03 pm) at the Park View Mennonite Church Fireplace Room.

There being no objections, they dispensed with the reading of the minutes. A copy is available on our website.

Old Business:

- None

New members/visitors:

- Rehana (Reh) Franklin is a first time visitor and potential new member.
- Emily and her two sons, Parker and Wade, joined as first time visitors. Parker has shown an interest in birding so they came to support his blooming hobby.
- Linda Lee recently moved to Dayton and is a new member.

Recent Bird Sightings:

- Bill Benish: Saw an Egyptian Goose in the North River at Seven Bridges Park, Bridgewater off of State Route 42. Others have been spotted sporadically in the area.
- Herb Myers: In August in Alberta, Canada, he saw a Merlin eating what has now been identified as an Ancient Murrelet.
- Tim Hulings: Saw a Northern Bobwhite at Purcell Park. He only saw one but has been keeping an eye out for other sightings.

Reports from Executive Committee:

Mike Donaldson (President):

- He announced that on November 20, the Executive Committee of the Rockingham Bird Club voted by email to appoint Allie Sawyer as the new Secretary. He welcomed her and expressed gratitude that she is filling the valuable role of Secretary, whose primary duty is keeping minutes.
- He also thanked First Vice President for Programs, Kathy Byers, for her tremendous work on the Bird Seed Sale. As the Club's biggest fundraiser, it is an outstanding feat when it goes successfully.

Kathy Byers (Vice President of Programs):

- She thanked Audrey and everyone in the Club for supporting the Bird Seed Sale. Numbers are coming up, which is very exciting. She also noted that we are officially out of bird seed.

Diane Lepkowski (Vice President of Field Trips):

- Not in attendance, so refer to the newsletter for any upcoming trips.
- Kathy made an announcement on Diane's behalf about the Solstice Walk at 8:30am at Hillandale Park on 12/22.

Audrey Shenk (Treasurer):

- Nothing to report

Art Fovargue (Club Historian):

- Last year's Club History (September 2022 through June 2023) was submitted to JMU Carrier Library. The library is currently under renovation so accessing records is difficult to navigate. Art will summarize the steps in the upcoming newsletter. The construction should be finished in around 1 year.
- Mike mentioned that the special collection of materials at the library will likely be useful in terms of the Club's upcoming 50th anniversary.

Bill Benish (Christmas Bird Count Coordinator):

- Saturday (12/16) is the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Birds seen 3 days before and 3 days after the CBC can be noted as honorable mentions but don't count in an official capacity.
- He added that Norm Clark saw a Snow Goose at Silver Lake.
- Someone asked about the history of the CBC. It started on Christmas of 1900 as an alternative to hunting and became an annual tradition. Bill mentioned it's a celebratory way to observe birds and has become an international effort.

Denise Hoodock (Newsletter Editor):

- Nothing to report
- Mike commended her great work on the newsletter.

Members at Large:

- Herb Myers and Andrew Troyer
- Good people to talk to if you have questions or concerns

New Business:

- None

Announcements:

- Mike announced that the next in-person Club meeting is at 7pm on Thursday, January 11 at Park View Mennonite Church, back in Fellowship Hall.
- There were no other announcements.

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:21 pm

Kathy Byers introduced our speaker for this meeting: John Spahr, presenting “Feathers and Plumage.”

Total Participants: 37

Minutes recorder: Allie Sawyer

December 14, 2023