

Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 2/8/2024

RBC President Mike Donaldson: Call to Order: The in-person February meeting of RBC will please come to order. (Time: 7:06 p.m.) at the Park View Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall.

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:

- None

Recent Bird Sightings:

- During their trip to North Carolina, Diane and Richard Smith saw a Wilson's Snipe at Nags Head and a Blue-headed Vireo in Ashwood.
- The Egyptian Goose was sighted again at Bridgewater by Bob Eggleston.
- Tom Mizell saw a pair of Bald Eagles upstream from Mt. Crawford Creamery.
- Don Perkuchin saw a lone Canvasback at Silver Lake.

Reports from Executive Committee:

Mike Donaldson (President):

- Mike announced that on Monday, January 22 the Executive Committee met and voted to approve the beginning of Kathy Byers posting the RBC meeting times in the *Daily News-Record* community calendar.
- He also announced the approval of the donations to organizations on the list compiled by Treasurer Audrey Shenk. People can refer to the newsletter for more specific details.
- Meeting notes for all Executive Committee meetings are available upon request, once they've been approved.

Kathy Byers (Vice President of Programs):

- Kathy expressed disappointment in not being able to enjoy Mark Adams' presentation "Butterflies and How to Attract Them" for the evening's previously scheduled program and she is trying to reschedule with him in June. If not then, maybe next year.
- Next month there is a returning presenter, Bob Schamerhorn, who lives outside of Richmond. He gets amazing shots of warblers and great water shots. He might bring items for purchase, so anyone interested should bring cash.
- On April 17-18 for grades 3-5, a Cub Run Elementary teacher is requesting assistance with running environmental presentations. Kathy is unable to help so

gave some naturalist recommendations. She opened the invitation to members of RBC. Anyone interested can reach out to Kathy for the teacher's contact info.

- Kathy gave a shout-out to Herb Myers for coming through with some lard for the Bird Seed Sale suet cakes.

Diane Lepkowski (Vice President of Field Trips):

- Not in attendance.
- Kathy Byers announced that after the Hillandale walk February, Tuesday 13, people are invited to her place at 10:30 a.m. for coffee and goodies.

Allie Sawyer (Secretary)

- Mike acknowledged Allie for her work on note-taking.

Audrey Shenk (Treasurer):

- Nothing to report

Denise Hoodock (Newsletter Editor):

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

Art Fovargue (Club Historian):

- Nothing to report
- Tom Mizell, who had asked members to share any Snow Day bird feeder stories they might have on the day of a snow-canceled field trip, took the opportunity to thank Art for submitting a nice mockingbird story to the Club newsletter.

Bill Benish (Christmas Bird Count Coordinator):

- Not in attendance but Mike recognized him for his work on the Christmas Bird Count.

Members at Large:

- Herb Myers and Andrew Troyer
- They are good people to talk to if you have questions or concerns.

New Business:

- Virginia Naturalist Bill Howe is hosting a bluebird box construction assembly line in his driveway February 24 at 9 a.m. It should conclude around noon. Tools like circular saws, other saws, and drills would be helpful. His house is located near

the cross-section of Erickson Avenue and State Route 42 (S. High Street). People can reach out to Bill to sign up.

Announcements:

- Mike announced that the club is looking for volunteers for a Nominating Committee for the annual election in May. Each year the Executive Committee appoints a three-person Nominating Committee for the March meeting. The immediate past president, this year it would be Mike Donaldson, serves as Chair of the committee. He then asked if anyone would like to volunteer to help on the Nominating Committee. No immediate interest was shown. Anyone interested should contact Mike.
- The JMU Arboretum is having an event coinciding with the Great Backyard Bird Count on Saturday, February 17. Three programs will be offered: at 10:30 a.m., Birding Basics with the Rockingham Bird Club, presented by Mike Donaldson; at noon, JMU ornithologist Dr. Dana Moseley will present Soundscapes of Backyard Bird Communities; and at 1:30 p.m., Katie Rankin will present a children's program called Bird Feeding Frenzy. The programs will take place at the Frances Plecker Education Center, which is also known as the Welcome Center or Visitor's Center. Free registration is required for these programs. Additional information is available in the February newsletter and on the Arboretum's website.
- There were no other announcements.

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:25 p.m.

Kathy Byers introduced the DVD about birding in Central Park since scheduled presenter Mark Adams was absent due to illness.

Total Participants: 36
Minutes recorder: Allie Sawyer
February 8, 2024