

Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 3/14/2024

RBC President Mike Donaldson: Call to Order: The in-person March meeting of RBC will please come to order. (Time: 7:01 pm) 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:

- Dan, his wife, and daughter are new to the Harrisonburg area. They are long-time birders and a community to share that common interest with.
- Mindy Morrison and Carol Lewis saw a Facebook post about the evening's program and thought it sounded like an interesting thing to do while they were passing through town.
- Bonnie Burchfield is a long-time local renewing her membership. She lives in Dayton.

Recent Bird Sightings:

- Henry Bowser reported a Sandhill Crane pair out in the middle of a field in Garrett County, MD. Last year they nested and had 2 nestlings.
- Ronald King saw a bird that caught his eye while mowing his lawn. It was about 3.5 inches tall and sat atop the water heater. They looked at each other and then a bigger one flew in but was hidden behind branches. He realized they were either albino or leucistic cardinals that have been spotted by others along Port Republic Rd.
- Martha Clymer saw 20 Cedar Waxwings in one trip and commented on how active they have been this year.
- Jay Landis saw two Red-tail Hawks mating. He's also noticing an increase in Meadow Larks, Tree Swallows, and Red-headed Woodpeckers.
- Someone reported that the Great Horned Owl and nestling are still at the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum. They are occupying an old Red-shouldered Hawk nest.
- John Mast saw a vulture. Last summer there was a nest by his house where 1 of the 2 eggs hatched in the loft. The youngling hissed at him to make its presence known. He reminisced about watching the mother teach the youngling to fly.
- Eva reported an American Robin at school with white splotches and was wondering what would cause that. Mike Donaldson commented that he too has seen that in a robin, prompting a conversation about leucism.
- Anne Nielsen also reported a leucistic robin sighting. It was in the Sunset Heights area and had a white head.

Reports from Executive Committee:

Mike Donaldson (President):

- Mike gave another announcement about the club elections in May and the need for a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee of three members should be formed at the March Club meeting per Club bylaws. Please reach out by email to Mike if interested.
- The immediate past president is supposed to serve as the chair of the Nominating Committee. We were previously under the impression that Mike would be that person but that may not be correct. Art Fovargue will help Mike look into this.

Kathy Byers (Vice President of Programs):

- Kathy was unable to attend the meeting so Mike commended her work on program lineups and made an announcement on her behalf. In April, Dave Wendelken will present a program about his travels to Panama. In May, Marshall Faintich will present a program on the Birds of England. In June, we set up tables, have a carry-in dinner, and Mark Adams will present the rescheduled program on Butterflies.

Diane Lepkowski (Vice President of Field Trips):

- There will be two Hillandale Park walks in March, one on March 12 and one March 19. Reach out to Tom Mizell with any questions.
- On March 23rd, there will be an evening trip to see American Woodcocks at Madison Run. Reach out to Diane ahead of time if interested. It is on a well-maintained fire road. There are no restroom facilities so be prepared for that.
- On April 6 at 8:45am, there will be another trip at Madison Run with hopes of seeing Pine Warblers, Blue-headed Vireos, and a handful of other birds. Greg Moyers will lead this trip so reach out to him with questions. There is also more information in the newsletter.

Allie Sawyer (Secretary):

- Mike recognized Allie

Audrey Shenk (Treasurer):

- Nothing to report

Art Fovargue (Club Historian):

- Nothing to report but he reminded the club that we have books for sale.

Bill Benish (Christmas Bird Count Coordinator):

- Unable to attend the meeting

Denise Hoodock (Newsletter Editor):

- Nothing to report
- Mike recognized 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:

- No new business

Announcements:

- Mike announced that the next in-person Club meeting is at 7pm on Thursday, April 11 at the same location.
- Jay Martin announced that it's time to start monitoring the bluebird boxes by the Fairgrounds Bluebird Trail again. Two of the birdhouses were replaced last year but the rest are in good shape. If able to be a monitor, it is only about a one hour commitment a month. There is a home depot bucket that contains materials necessary to assist the monitors. Reach out to Joy Beaman if interested in helping out.

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:21 pm

Diane Lepowski introduced the returning presenter of the evening, life-long nature enthusiast Bob Schamerhorn. He presented "Attracting Birds with Water".

Total Participants: 58

Minutes recorder: Allie Sawyer

March 14, 2024