

# Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 4/11/2024

RBC President Mike Donaldson: Call to Order: The in-person April meeting of RBC will please come to order. (Time: 7:02 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:**

- Phyllis and Bob Phillips are new to the area and were looking to enjoy time with fellow birders.
- Victor Buckwalter is a past member who would like to get back in touch with the Rockingham birding community.
- Rosy Myers was birding at the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum, where she heard about RBC.
- Sonja Sawyer joined as a visitor with Allie Sawyer. It was her first birding meeting.

## **Recent Bird Sightings:**

- Someone asked for an update on the Great Horned Owls, after hearing some worries about how the fledglings are adjusting. Mike Donaldson saw one fledgling roosting by the water tower. They seem to be faring well.
- Bill Benish saw two Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets.
- On the Hillandale field trip, Mike Donaldson saw a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

## **Reports from Executive Committee:**

### **Mike Donaldson (President):**

- Mike gave an election update. The annual Club elections will be held at the next meeting on Thursday, May 9. The five Club officers serve 1-year terms and are all up for reelection. These officers are the President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. All five indicated their willingness to serve another term.

The two Members-at-Large serve 2-year terms and are eligible for one additional 2-year term. Because their terms are staggered, only one is up for reelection this year. Mike was happy to report that Herb Myers graciously indicated that he is willing to serve another term as Member-at-Large.

Barring any changes, the slate of nominees for this year's election will consist entirely of the current officer holders. Additional information for Club election guidelines and procedures can be found in the Club Constitution and By-Laws.

**Kathy Byers (Vice President of Programs):**

- Next month's presenter will be Marshall Faintich, an esteemed Virginian birder. He will be presenting "Birds of England."
- Kathy reminded everyone that June's meeting will be the carry-in dinner. Park View Mennonite Church is a peanut-free establishment. Please keep that in mind when bringing a dish. The meeting that night will be the rescheduled program on Butterflies with Mark Adams.
- We are looking for presenters next year. Reach out to Kathy with any potential presenters.

**Diane Lepkowski (Vice President of Field Trips):**

- There will be a field trip at the end of April or early May for spring birds that are migrating.
- The Hillandale walk will be Tuesday, May 14 at 8:30am.
- Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) is having a meeting Thursday night at 7pm about the studies they are doing on breeding patterns in Virginia.

**Allie Sawyer (Secretary):**

- Mike recognized Allie

**Audrey Shenk (Treasurer):**

- Nothing to report

**Art Fovargue (Club Historian):**

- No new history

**Bill Benish (Christmas Bird Count Coordinator):**

- Nothing to report

**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:**

- Denise Hoodock announced that she brought a 1,000 piece bird puzzle. All pieces are accounted for, and it came out very nicely. It's free for anyone interested.

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:18 pm

Kathy Byers introduced our speaker for this meeting: Club Member Dave Wendelken. He taught journalism at JMU and has traveled throughout the world, enjoying the many natural wonders in those places. He detailed his adventures in Panama for the evening's meeting.

Total Participants: 59

Minutes recorder: Allie Sawyer

April 11, 2024