

RBC President Mike Donaldson: Call to Order: The in-person November meeting of RBC will please come to order [**7:03 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.

Intro- Thanked everyone for braving the weather and intro of Mike. Mike welcomed people to talk with those around them.

Announcement- Clair Mellinger talked about new hearing devices and offered to get them out each meeting. They'll work for the sanctuary and our meeting room. He gave two different suggestions for audio aids: One type is individual units with earbuds and the other is an app that connects right to one's hearing aid, which folks would already have downloaded and connected to their own hearing aids. He is going to make them available at every meeting, just pick them up and return at the end of the meetings.

Old Business:

- Dispensing of the minutes, but nothing else

New members/visitors:

● Bill and Katherine Knight are living here part time. Bill is from Wyoming & Katherine from Idaho.

Recent Bird Sightings:

● Anne Nielson- not recent, but the Black Crowned Night Heron nested near the poultry plant at Dayton right near the cross roads on 42. She thinks she saw some of the hatchlings in the summer. She saw them chasing each other around the ground, and that she was worried they wouldn't make it to Florida... Speculating that they've been there at least 10 years

- Mike Donaldson reported that they saw Purple Finches on their walk on Tuesday at the feeder at his and Linda's house.

Reports from Executive Committee:

Mike Donaldson (President):

● Nothing to Report for this month.

Kathy Byers (Vice President of Programs):

● Report for December program Raptor Hill will be presenting and possibly bringing a live bird. They asked about distractors in the room→ Kathy wasn't sure what counted as a distraction :).

- Seed sale– thank you for purchasing seed and the Jubilee merchandise. Thanks for the Suet cakes and to the volunteers who are going to help pick-up day on Saturday.
- We'll be at the Poultry Exhibit Building, #24 at Rockingham County Fairgrounds. There will be signs from 9am-1pm for the RBC to help and pick up on Saturday.

Diane Lepkowski (Vice President of Field Trips)[Unable to Attend]:

- Mike reporting on Diane's behalf– 1 upcoming field trip: The monthly Hillandale Field Trip at the park in Harrisonburg City is Tuesday, December 10 at 8:30 am. This will be at shelter 12 in the little building in the back .

Allie Sawyer (Secretary):[Unable to Attend]

- Mike recognized Miranda Lyle (soon to be Troyer) for taking meeting minutes and congratulated Miranda and Andrew Troyer on their wedding.

Audrey Shenk (Treasurer):[Unable to Attend]

- Nothing to report in Audrey's absence

Art Fovargue (Club Historian):

- Art had a mini update - He took the 2023-2024 RBC year history to JMU's Special Collections Library. It includes the 2023 digital newsletters, meeting minutes (general and executive), memberships, field trip summaries, etc. This is viewable by appointment.

Bill Benish (Christmas Bird Count Coordinator):[Unable to Attend]

- In lieu of Bill, Mike read a message from Bill– “Bill asked that I share a few things regarding the Christmas Bird Count, which will be on Saturday, December 14. As far as counting birds in the field, several section leaders may still need help, so check with Bill if you're interested in doing that. Please refer to the November newsletter for his contact info in the relevant announcement. Feeder watchers are highly encouraged, Bill emphasizes it's critical for potential feeder watchers to contact him to make sure they live within the count circle and so he can impart additional details.”
- Please reach out to Bill if interested in participating in the CBC or have any questions about it.

Denise Hoodock (Newsletter Editor)

- Mike recognized Denise's wonderful work on the newsletter.

Members at Large:

- Mike recognized Herb Myers and Andrew Troyer.

- These are good people to talk to if you have any ideas, questions, or concerns, as a primary role of the members-at-large is to act as liaisons between Club members and the Executive Committee.

New Business/Announcements:

- The next in-person club meeting is December 12th at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned @7:17 pm.

Kathy Byers introduced the presentation on *Eastern Golden Eagles in Virginia* by Jeff Cooper.

Kathy wanted to thank Clair for offering the hearing aids, and remind people to speak up and let her know if they are having a hard time hearing the speaker. She can sneak in and turn things and adjust the sound.

Total Participants: 49

Minutes recorder: Miranda Troyer

Date of Meeting: November 14, 2024