

# Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 1/09/2025

RBC President Mike Donaldson: Call to Order: The virtual January meeting of RBC will please come to order [7:02]. Due to inclement weather, the meeting took place via Zoom. Mike thanked everyone for bearing with us on the format change for the meeting. He began by introducing himself and sharing a note from Club Historian Art Fovargue that was mentioned in this month's Club newsletter: 50 years ago this evening marked the first meeting of the Rockingham Bird Club. Mike thanked everyone again for joining on such an impressive milestone and that it wouldn't have happened without the Club's continued support and enthusiasm. He thinks it says a lot about the community and the high level of interest in nature here in the Valley.

There being no objections, they dispensed with the reading of the minutes. A copy is available on our website. In order to expedite things so that we can move along to our outstanding presenter, Mike skipped over chatting with new members and visitors, and postponed the typical sharing of bird sightings until the next meeting. He thanked new members and/or visitors joining us this evening.

## **Old Business:**

- No old business

## **Reports from Executive Committee:**

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

- Mike had no additional notes
- Since Diane Lepkowski was unable to attend, Mike announced a field trip led by Robyn Puffenbarger on January 23rd to see Short-eared Owls. The plan is to meet at the I-81 "Park and Ride" off Exit 240 at 4pm. Robyn would appreciate that people RSVP with her beforehand.

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

- Kathy Byers announced the Hillandale walk next Tuesday, Jan 14 at 8:30am. They are hoping to once again host a Birds and Brunch walk in February. Kathy will keep folks posted.
- Kathy announced that we have 2 10lb bags of Nyjer seed for \$25 each of remaining seed. Reach out to Kathy if interested.
- The February program will feature Bruce Beehler, author of *North on the Wing*.

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

- Unable to attend

### **Allie Sawyer (Secretary):**

- Mike recognized Allie

**Audrey Shenk (Treasurer):**

- Nothing to report

**Art Fovargue (Club Historian):**

- Mike had touched on Art's announcement regarding this meeting being 50 years to the day of the first Club meeting. There will be more 50-year anniversary related festivities throughout the year.

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

- Due to the abbreviated business portion of the meeting, a full recap of the Christmas Bird Count will be at the next club meeting. Mike expressed his appreciation for all of Bill's work. Bill then thanked Mike for his kind words.

**Denise Hoodock (Newsletter Editor):**

- Mike recognized her great work on the newsletter and thanked her for sending out emails for the Zoom meeting this week.

**Members at Large:**

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

**New Business/Announcements:**

- Next week's meeting will be February 13, hopefully at the normal meeting place.

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:14

Linda Donaldson gave a brief overview on the Zoom features that would be useful during the presentation.

Kathy Byers expressed her excitement for the meeting tonight, even though she is not a fan of Zoom meetings. She then thanked Linda Donaldson for stepping up and helping with the Zoom logistics. Kathy introduced the presentation on Cerulean Warblers by Katie Fallon:

- "Katie, I was reflecting on how interesting it is that you have spoken to our club about two very different birds. Several years ago you spoke to us after you had written a book about the Cerulean Warbler. Your more recent presentation, and a second book, converted me into an ardent fan of Vultures. Rather opposite ends of the bird spectrum! Let me tell you about Katie:

- **Katie Fallon** is the author of the nonfiction books *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird* (2020, 2017) and *Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird* (2011), as well as two books for children. She is Executive Director of the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the region's wild birds through research, education, and rehabilitation. She has served as President of the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society. Katie is a Certified Professional Bird Trainer and has worked with birds since 1998; over the last twenty years she has given educational presentations featuring live raptors, vultures, parrots, and corvids. She also writes the column WINGBEATS for Bird Watcher's Digest and has taught writing at West Virginia University, Virginia Tech, and elsewhere. Her first word was 'bird.' For more information go to [www.katiefallon.com](http://www.katiefallon.com).”

Total Participants: 44

Minutes recorder: Allie Sawyer

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