

Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 10/09/25

RBC President Mike Donaldson: Call to Order: The in-person October meeting of RBC will please come to order at 7:01pm 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.

New members/visitors:

- Debbie Turner was visiting with Elizabeth Miller who hadn't arrived yet as she was on the way from a volleyball game.
- Ben Spory is a new member who lives in the Dale Enterprise neighborhood of Rockingham County.

Recent Bird Sightings:

- Kathy Byers awarded a golden feather to Chelsa Shank for the Inca Dove at her family's home in Mt. Crawford. In late July she heard a bird that seemed unfamiliar to her and on September 12 she finally spotted it. The Shank family has welcomed over 100 visitors, looking to see the first recorded sighting of the Inca Dove in Virginia. As of 10/09/2025, Chelsea has seen it the last 11 days.
- Art Fovargue observed a Yellow-breasted Chat for a few minutes a week ago in his yard in Harrisonburg.

Reports from Executive Committee:

Mike Donaldson (President):

- Mike Donaldson didn't have anything to report this month, but reminded everyone that the deadline for ordering for the Club's Bird Seed sale is Saturday, October 11. Cindy Smoker, our seed sale director, is in the back this evening and is available to answer questions and help place orders for anyone wanting to do so this evening. Mike found ordering online through the Club's website to be quick and easy.

Kathy Byers (Vice President of Programs):

- Kathy invited anyone who has difficulty with stairs to use the upper parking area, which does have handicap parking spaces available.
- Kathy shared the upcoming programs:
 - In November, Mike Hayslett of Harrisonburg will present a program on Vernal Pools.
 - In December, our own Doug Ruby, will present a program about his Big Year adventure.

Matt Gingerich (Vice President of Field Trips):

- Matt Gingerich announced the two upcoming Club outings:
 - Saturday, October 11 at 8am there will be a trip to Slate Lick looking for sparrows.
 - Tuesday, October 14 at 8:30am is the monthly Hillandale walk.
- Matt also mentioned that for winter he is looking to pick new places such as VMRC (Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community) Farm. He is taking suggestions for trips and looking for people to lead walks.

Allie Sawyer (Secretary):

- Mike recognized Allie

Audrey Shenk (Treasurer):

- Audrey Shenk reminded the Club that dues are due November 1st. Failure to pay dues on time will result in being dropped from the mailing list. The Club year begins in September, even if dues were paid in spring.
 - Kathy Byers asked if auto-renewal is possible. Audrey believes it should be; Kathy said she will check.

Art Fovargue (Club Historian):

- Art updated that he is still compiling the 36 publishable memories from the Best Bird Memory project. While it was not quite the 100 that he was hoping for, the time investment compiling even 36 has been extensive. He thanked everyone for the submissions and shared the most mentioned birds in the sightings. The Barred Owl was mentioned three times and both the Snowy Owl and Belted Kingfisher were mentioned two times.

Bill Benish (Christmas Bird Count Coordinator):

- On behalf of Bill who was unable to attend, Mike announced that December 20th is the Club's CBC date with January 3rd being the backup date. Reach out to Bill if interested in joining in the field or from home if in the circle.

Denise Hoodock (Newsletter Editor):

- Mike recognized her great work on the newsletter.

Members at Large:

- Mike recognized Herb Myers and Andrew Troyer.

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

New Business/Announcements:

- Mike announced the next in-person Club meeting at 7pm on Thursday, November 13 at the same location.
- He gave one last reminder about the ordering deadline for the seed sale.
- He then asked if anyone else had any announcements and moved onto the closing remarks after there were no additional announcements.

Mike, “Are there any objections or further business?” The meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.

Kathy Byers introduced the presentation on a 2 week birding trip to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan with Wings Global Travel by Mary Keith, a friend of Kathy’s and member of the Tampa Audubon Society.

Total Participants: 49

Minutes recorder: Allie Sawyer

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