

# Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 12/11/25

Program: Doug Ruby presenting his experience chasing birds for a “Big Year” effort in 2017.

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

- Jane and David Garber visited after seeing the Club’s information in the newspaper.
- Tim Showalter Ehst is a new member who has been in the area for a while and has gotten into birds the past 3 years.

## **Recent Bird Sightings:**

- Linda Miller saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at her feeder enjoying suet from the Club’s sale.
- Ronald King saw Brown-headed Cowbirds as well as little yellow birds that he couldn’t identify passing through at his feeder one mile northwest of the hospital.
- Zachary Peters enjoyed seeing Common and Hooded Mergansers on the river near Edinburg.
- While on a Club trip led by Greg Moyers to Lake Shenandoah, Kathy Byers watched a Bald Eagle keep circling and diving. She thought she saw something splashing around at one point but didn’t get a great look at it.
- A Club member asked if the Inca Dove has continued to stick around Mt. Crawford. Chelsa Shank responded that she saw it that day around 2:30pm.

## **Reports from Executive Committee:**

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

- Mike Donaldson had nothing to report.

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

- Kathy Byers reviewed the Club’s inclement weather policy: If Blue Ridge Community College is delayed or closed, there will not be a meeting.
- Kathy reminded everyone that if they have issues with stairs, there is a front parking area and handicap parking available for member’s use.

- In January, Richard Rowe will present *Birds of Arizona*. In February, Dave Wendelken will present on birds in the Amazon basin.

**Matt Gingerich (Vice President of Field Trips):**

- Matt Gingerich was unable to attend and there was nothing to announce on the field trip front.
- Mike noted the Hillandale walk in January will be on Tuesday the 13th at 8:30am at shelter number 12.

**Allie Sawyer (Secretary):**

- Mike recognized Allie

**Audrey Shenk (Treasurer):**

- Nothing to report

**Art Fovargue (Club Historian):**

- Unable to attend

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

- Bill Benish was unable to attend so Mike spoke on his behalf: “The annual Christmas Count is still on for Saturday, December 20. Bill said the slots for helping section leaders in the field are full, but anyone is welcome to reach out to him to indicate their interest in the event any slots open up. You’re also welcome to contact him for help to see if you live in the circle to consider participating as a Feeder Watcher. Please refer to Bill’s announcement in the newsletter for his email address and for a link to a map to help determine if you live within the count circle.”

**Denise Hoodock (Newsletter Editor):**

- Mike recognized her great work on the newsletter.

**Members at Large:**

- 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:**

- As there were no member announcements, Mike reminded everyone that the next in-person Club meeting is at 7pm on Thursday, January 8 at the same location.

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:15pm

Kathy Byers introduced Doug Ruby presenting on his “Big Year” effort in 2017.

Total Participants: 43

Minutes recorder: Allie Sawyer

Date of Meeting: 12/11/2025