

Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 03/12/26

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

- Daniel Zook visited after prompting from Mike Donaldson when they were at Shalom for a carry-in meal. He lives just down the road on Lake Terrace Drive. He moved around 4 years ago from Ohio and mentioned he knows Herb Myers.
- Cheryl Carlisle is a friend of Kathy Byers's and is visiting from St. George Utah where she is part of their Audubon Society.

Recent Bird Sightings:

- Zack Perdue at Hillandale heard and saw an Eastern Meadowlark, which only caught him by surprise because of how early in the season it is.
- Henry Hawkins saw birds everywhere at his home feeders and in the yard. He saw just about everything this afternoon.
- Jay Landis saw a Brown Creeper yesterday and the other day when working in the yard. He also saw Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers as well.
- Andrew Rapp took time while he was in town to see the famed Crested Caracara in the area.
- Kathy Byers and Randy Cline spotted a Fox Sparrow at Hillandale.
- While in Maryland, Henry Bowser once again saw Sandhill Cranes.

Reports from Executive Committee:

Mike Donaldson (President):

- Nothing to report

Kathy Byers (Vice President of Programs):

- Kathy Byers reminded the Club that there is parking on the western side that avoids the stairs.
- Kathy put signs up to help with a door change that evening and hoped the signs helped people navigate that. She asked if someone could try to help her remember to take them down.
- She then reminded everyone that we have audio aids available. She also noted the speaker placement and encouraged anyone having a hard time hearing to sit closer to them if wanted.

- For the upcoming April program, Steven David Johnson, a professor from EMU and incredible photographer, will present a program on the Shenandoah River and Backyard Biodiversity. Kathy brought a VA Wildlife Magazine to pass around with the vernal pools article and pictures. The magazine also featured Mike Roberts who did a Kingfisher program for the Club a couple of years ago.
- In May, Joanna Vandrsek from the Piedmont Bird Club will present a program on Cardinals.
- Kathy then gave a reminder about the equinox on March 20 and the Hillandale outing that day. Before the walk, folks are more than welcome to join for breakfast at 8:30am at Kathy's. Around 9:45am, the group will head to Hillandale Park and meet at the Shelter 12 parking lot. There we will look for our final birds of Winter until 10:46am. At 10:47am our Spring sightings can begin! Signing up ahead of time is not required but there is a sign up sheet in the back.

Matt Gingerich (Vice President of Field Trips):

- Matt Gingerich struggled to come up with field trip ideas for March because each trip he thought of would be better during other months. But, there are still good opportunities to look out for. As always, if anyone has an idea for an outing, please reach out to Matt.
- Diane Lepkowski is leading a Woodcock trip the evening of March 30.
- Matt noted that the Waste Water Treatment plant outside of Timberville sees a lot of diversity. Waterfowl is the primary migrating entity observed there. There will be a trip there March 18 at 6pm.
- On March 27, Matt is leading a trip in Linville at 8:30am in hopes to see Vesper Sparrows.
- Matt also alerted the Club about upcoming early morning outings at the end of April/early May. The dates are not finalized so be on the lookout in the newsletter.

Art Fovargue (Club Historian):

- Nominating committee: May elections, still have openings on the nominating committee. The job is to select a slate of officers: President, 1st Vice President of Programs, 2nd Vice President of Field Trips, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. We are close to a full slate of officers but if anyone is interested in running, please reach out to Art Fovargue. Feel free to also reach out to him or any of the officers if you have more specific questions.

New Business/Announcements:

- Randy Cline, the Standing Committee head for the Bluebird Trail, asked that everybody who checks on the bluebird boxes with him to stand up and receive a round of applause. He then voiced his appreciation for their help and informed the Club that they are looking

for more volunteers for anyone interested. They have five teams and once every five weeks it will take about 45 minutes for one team to do their duties. All 10 boxes are back up and functioning, which Randy thanked Tim Hulings for.

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:21pm

Kathy Byers introduced Andrew Rapp's presentation on seabirds. Andrew's grandparents were charter members and in a way his dad, Tom, technically was as well since they had a family membership. With that family history, it is not surprising that he was a founding member of Blue Ridge Young Birders Clubs

Total Participants: 59

Minutes recorder: Allie Sawyer

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