

Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 5/14/2026

RBC President Mike Donaldson: Call to Order: The in-person May meeting of RBC will please come to order at 7:02pm 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:

- No visitors or new members

Recent Bird Sightings:

- Joel Stauffer was fortunate this spring to find a female Blackburnian Warbler in the parking area at Briery Branch gap. The bird kept returning to a pine branch where Joel photographed it. Later, under closer inspection of the photo, he found it in a nest with a dandelion in its beak.
- David and Bonny Burchfield saw a juvenile Double-crested Cormorant at Silver Lake. It was on a branch in the water and was a new bird for them.
- Linda Miller had her first Rose-breasted Grosbeak at her feeder and water feature since 2019.

Reports from Executive Committee:

Mike Donaldson (President):

- Thanked Herb Myers for his service of consecutive 2-year terms.
- Art Fovargue was the head of the nominating committee and presented the ballot for the club's 2026 - 2027 offices.
 - President – Mike Donaldson
 - First Vice President, Programs – Kathy Byers
 - Second Vice President, Field Trips – Matt Gingerich
 - Secretary – Allie Sawyer
 - Treasurer - Audrey Shenk
 - Member-at-large - Miranda Troyer
- “Any nominations?” Upon there being none, Kathy Fovargue made a motion to close the floor for nominations. Tom Mizell seconded it.
- The slate of nominations was put up to a voice vote and the aye’s won.
- Mike then encouraged people to see announcements in the latest newsletter.

Kathy Byers (Vice President of Programs):

- Kathy gave several announcements for the June potluck dinner starting at 6:00pm.
 - Greg Moyers and Diane Lepkowski will present a slide show.
 - Park View is a peanut free facility. Plates will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own.
 - There will be door prizes
 - There is a signup sheet for setup/clean up and table decorations.
- We are looking for people interested in using the track chair program led by Paige French.

Matt Gingerich (Vice President of Field Trips):

- Birding before work has been popular so we will add May 20th at 6:30am. Details will be sent out in an email early next week.
- There is a pasture walk at Edom Springs Farm on Friday, May 22nd at 8:00 am. Dickcissels nested there last year. RSVP to fieldtrips@rockinghambirdclub.com
- On May 31st, there will be a Blue Moon walk, which will entail birding at night at a location near Union Springs. Carpooling from Harrisonburg, requires RSVP fieldtrips@rockinghambirdclub.com
- Matt is looking for more folks willing to lead field trips. Various styles and intensities of birding are welcome.
- Next Hillandale walk is May 12th.

Allie Sawyer (Secretary):

- Mike recognized Allie

Audrey Shenk (Treasurer):

- Audrey thanked donors to the GCG (Great Community Give). A total of over \$1,200 was donated.

Art Fovargue (Club Historian):

- Nothing to report

Bill Benish (Christmas Bird Count Coordinator):

- No report

Denise Hoodock (Newsletter Editor):

- Mike recognized her great work on the newsletter.

Members at Large:

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

New Business/Announcements:

- No further business

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:21

Kathy Byer introduced the presentation on Behavior and Ecology of Northern Cardinals by Joanna Vondrasek, Professor of Biology from the University of Carolina.

Total Participants: 50

Minutes recorder: Andrew Troyer

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