

Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 6/11/2026

Program: Potluck and Diane Lepkowski and Greg Moyers with a slide show

RBC President Mike Donaldson: Call to Order: The business portion of the meeting began with a loose gavel at 6:06pm 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 new members or visitors

Recent Bird Sightings:

- A few weeks ago Mike Donaldson saw a male Painted Bunting at his feeder. He had one in the winter of 2021 (late February) and it stayed for a few weeks until around Saint Patrick's Day. He wondered if it's the same individual.
 - The next morning, Cindy Smoker woke up and saw the sighting on eBird so kept an eye on her feeder. Then, it showed up, left, and came back briefly. She also saw a flock of Cedar Waxwings and a Swainson's Thrush.
- Joel Stauffer reported a female Blackburnian Warbler that flew away pretty quickly. But, once it left, a Cerulean Warbler flew in and put on a great display.
- Henry Hawkins updated that his property was approved for the Golden-winged Warbler project, the process began last fall.
- Ken Ranck heard his first Whip-poor-will at his and Mildred's home in 35 years. He heard it from across the river.
- Tim Hulings remarked that the Gray Catbirds who usually eat some of his raspberries have not been around this year. He's kind of missing them.
- Joe Shank, while on his front porch, saw two Indigo Buntings flying around.
- Kate Komorous went to Silver Lake in search of a Black Tern that had been sighted there. She was thankful to see it upon arrival and watched it do laps around the lake. The Black Tern was there until around 8pm on 6/10.
- Mike Donaldson reported a Yellow-breasted Chat on the Hillandale walk. He heard it for a while before he saw it. It was off the bike trail between the Bluestone Elementary School and Hillandale. On the edge of where First Tee - Shenandoah Valley and Heritage Oaks Golf Course meet.

Reports from Executive Committee:

Mike Donaldson (President)

- Mike, "I just want to briefly thank everyone for what I think was a great year for the Club. I appreciate all of you for all the ways you support the Club. I spent some time trying to list all of the ways that people contribute that I am thankful for, and the list got way too long to read here. So that we can move things along,

I'll simply say that I truly appreciate the time, effort, and enthusiasm that you all bring to this Club."

Kathy Byers (Vice President of Programs)

- Kathy Byers asked the Executive Committee and Standing Committee chairs to stand for recognition. Mike made sure Randy Cline knew he was included in that recognition.
- Kathy expressed gratitude for the Club Members who were speakers this year and thanked Diane Lepkowski and Greg Moyers for creating the evening's presentation.
- She has several speakers lined up for next year but is always looking for more. She gets many of them from Club member's recommendations so reach out with any ideas.

Matt Gingerich (Vice President of Field Trips)

- Matt thought it was a good spring with lots of field trips. He thanked all for the avid attendance at the early morning birding opportunities.
- He noted to check the newsletter for an announcement on a trip to Dunkle Hollow the morning of 6/17.
- There's also a trip Tuesday evening at Matt's to observe Common Nighthawks, bring lawn chairs.
- He's unsure what July and August will hold.
- Matt made a call for trip leaders.
- Hillandale walk announcement: Hillandale walks will continue on the 2nd Tuesday of both July and August.

Allie Sawyer (Secretary)

- Mike recognized Allie

Audrey Shenk (Treasurer)

- Nothing to report

Art Fovargue (Club Historian)

- Nothing to 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:

- Linda Miller wanted to add a thanks to Kathy Byers and all the work she does since Kathy hadn't included herself in the Executive Committee's round of applause.

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:05pm

Diane Lepkowski and Greg Moyers presented a slideshow during the potluck dinner.

Total Participants: 59

Minutes recorder: Allie Sawyer

Date of Meeting: 6/11/26