

Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting

Tuesday, Feb 6, 2018

President Ed McDonald welcomed a small gathering of about 20 members at 7:10 pm on a snowy evening. Lynn Bischke was attending her first meeting.

Minutes

Dorothy Parks reported that her name had been omitted from the list of Directors after last month's election. The January 2018 minutes were accepted as corrected; moved by Pat Turner, 2nd Pat Mearns.

Treasurer's Report

Ted Hillary gave his Financial Statement for Feb 6, 2018:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Bank balance Dec 31, 2017 | | \$4,344.94 |
| Receipts | | |
| Dues | 225.00 | |
| Silent Auction | 200.00 | |
| Interest | .17 | \$ 425.17 |
| Disbursements | | |
| BC Nature annual dues | 1,089.00 | \$1,089.00 |
| Bank balance February 6, 2018 | | \$3,681.11 |
| Patronage | | \$.81 |

Ted Hillary moved acceptance of the report. 2nd Marlene McDonald

Announcements

1. Executive meeting Feb 3:

a) Spring outings list will be posted soon, with some occurring on Saturdays to accommodate working members.

b) As a result of our wish to make more use of social media to reach a wider audience, Kyle Fitzpatrick has said that Tammara's sister, Laurel, will set up an Instagram (Internet App and service) site for the club to share photos and messages. Loretta Prosser volunteered to post notices of upcoming meetings/ speakers in the Shuswap Market News.

2. Gillian Richardson explained the protocol for Bird Studies Canada's annual BC and Yukon Nocturnal Owl Survey, an evening count of owls heard along a designated route of at least 10 stops spaced 1.6 km apart. The survey in this area is done during March. Anyone interested in setting up a route can contact the BC Program Coordinator, Karen Devitt at BCvolunteer@birdscanada.org

Business

1. Ed McDonald reminded us that Mandy Kellner, a biologist in Revelstoke working as a regional coordinator for the BC Community Bat Project, who spoke at a meeting in 2016, has information about bats and bat houses. Ed's 'show and tell' item was a little brown bat that Jim Cooperman had found in

his home. The bat was mounted on a board so we had a good view of wingspan. Ed noted that of over 1000 bat species worldwide, 18 live in Canada with 16 of them found in BC. Of major concern is White-Nose Syndrome, a fungal disease first seen in the northeast in 2006, that is decimating bat populations. In 2016, it was discovered in Washington State so is moving closer to BC.

2. Janet Aitken spoke about the Save Our Songbirds Program. The committee is developing a logo to be displayed on any media material they use that will help increase awareness of the value of songbirds and declines in their population. Future plans include a Songbird Festival in 2019, hopefully in conjunction with an exhibit of art at the local Art Gallery. More details to come as the committee continues its work.

Sightings:

Ed McDonald counted 53 California quail in Ted Hillary's garden, and saw a long-eared owl near the Prestige Inn

Janet Aitken has a terrific photo of a Great Grey Owl seen in the Larch Hills area.

Pat Turner saw a Great Horned Owl fly across the road near SASS.

Ed McDonald moved to adjourn at 7:45 pm.

Our guest speaker, Dr. Warren Bell, shared information about the community radio station, CKVS, 93.7 FM, Voice of the Shuswap. This non-profit society welcomes local volunteers to generate programming of interest to the South Shuswap. Any topic has potential, including activities and programs of the Club. This would be an excellent way to make the community more aware of what we do.