

Shuswap Naturalist Club AGM Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 2023
Salmon Arm Senior Secondary School Library

Colin Spence, Chair for this meeting, welcomed 29 members to SASS library at 7 PM.

Approval of Agenda: Colin Spence moved approval of the agenda, 2nd Pam Saul.

Minutes: Carla Kirkpatrick moved acceptance of the March 2, 2022 AGM minutes as circulated. 2nd Janet Aitken.

Treasurer: Ted Hillary submitted his reports:

Financial Statement 2022

Bank Balance January 1 2022 **\$3351.49**

Revenue

Dues	2007.46	
Coffee	47.65	
Gifts	290.00	
BC Nature	2500.00	
Interest	3.75	
Silent Auction	67.00	\$4915.86

Expenditures

Administration		
Room Rent	182.70	
Website	103.72	
Young Naturalists	61.59	
BCN Annual Dues	1140.00	
Blackburn Park	821.86	
Projector	1000.21	
Director's Expenses	200.00	\$3510.08

Bank Balance December 31 2022 **\$4757.27**

Larch Hills Sign Project	\$2500.00
Songbird Committee	\$ 280.00

Ted moved acceptance of the Financial Statement. 2nd Mike Saul

Budget 2023

Revenue	
Membership Dues	1800.00
Coffee	100.00

Club Funds	180.00
Fund Raising	250.00
Total	\$2330.00

Expenditures

BCN Dues	1200.00
Room Rental	200.00
Newsletter/Postage	25.00
Website	105.00
Representative's Expenses	500.00
Christmas Bird Count	100.00
Miscellaneous	200.00

Total \$2330.00

Ted moved acceptance of the 2023 Budget. 2nd Barbara Raynor

Ted will accept dues for the 2023 year anytime: single membership \$25, family \$30.

New Business:

1) Chair for March – Janet Aitken will Chair the next meeting. We will continue to ask for volunteers to chair occasional meetings.

Reports (Note: Existing Committee Chairs will continue for 2023 unless otherwise noted)

1) **Membership** – Ted Hillary reported our membership stands at about 100.

2) **Christmas Bird Count** – Ted Hillary noted the 62 species sighted was our lowest count on record, possibly due to the frigid windy weather and frozen lake. Some notables were a Snow Goose (west of the wharf), 253 Varied thrush, 127 California Quail (possibly replacing Pheasants in the area), 818 Dark-eyed Juncos, 29 Spotted Towhees, and 119 Song Sparrows. See Ted's full report in the January 2023 eNewsletter. **Ted would like to hand over the Christmas Bird Count task to a new volunteer; please let him know if you are interested.** Joyce Henderson thanked Ted on our behalf for his 20+ years doing this work for the Club.

3) **Enderby/Armstrong Count** – Geoff Styles – no report

4) **Programs** – Anne Caughlan – no report, although Anne has lined up speakers for the next 4 meetings.

5) **Salmon Arm Environmental Advisory Committee** – Barbara Raynor filled in for Janet Pattinson who was unable to attend the February 7 meeting. A guest speaker from the Shuswap Food Action Society described food security issues, and encouraged support for local farmers and food markets. Earth Day will be celebrated in April with a downtown event to encourage greater participation. Julia Beatty talked about a special species of cottonwood tree that is being developed in Armstrong and may be available for local planting projects.

6) Urban Woodland Parks - Glenda Hanna reviewed background of concerns that came to light regarding recent wildfire mitigation efforts in city parks, with tree clearing intended to reduce fuel load also having negative effects on wildlife and park users. After correspondence with the City of Salmon Arm, this issue was referred to BC Nature for communication with the provincial government. Letters are available to view at the BC Nature website. Our committee is monitoring further responses, in particular, looking for more direct reference to future plans for urban/regional district parks (as opposed to mainly provincial parkland) and watching for improvements to the consultation process with respect to work undertaken by Salmon Arm.

7) BC Nature Rep – Di Wittner – See reference in December 6, 2022 Minutes

8) Grebe Count – Di Wittner – See Di's report in the September, 2022 eNewsletter. John Woods noted the healthy number of 485 grebes in Salmon Arm when Western Grebes are doing poorly elsewhere in BC (maybe 1 pair in Creston?). He mentioned a first count in 1962 when the grebes nested in flooded area near the willows, and that market buoys now restricting access to nesting areas seem to be effective. An observation was made that businesses renting motorized craft in the bay are alerting customers to need for strict avoidance of the prohibited zones.

9) Bird Box Project – Di Wittner – See Di's report in the November, 2022 eNewsletter. Plans are underway to build more boxes for the bluebird trail near Peterson's Farm. Di and Colin Spence have recorded locations of all existing boxes; that GPS data (Google Earth) is available to Club members upon request.

10) Songbird Committee – Janet Aitken – no report

11) SABNES - Janet Aitken – Grants from Shuswap Rotary and the Shuswap Community Foundation will fund the bird viewing platform at the end of the beaver boardwalk. A grant from Canada Summer Jobs will fund a student for the Brighthouse Centre for 2023. As a registered charity, SABNES is eligible for the COVID Recovery grant to help with the organization's expenses such as computers, webcams.

12) Newsletter – Ed/Marlene McDonald – Ed reported 8 eNewsletters created in 2022, with 6 planned for 2023. The next issue will be March 1. Thanks to all who contribute material for this publication, and news items welcome anytime. Members expressed their enjoyment, appreciation and eager anticipation for future eNewsletters.

13) Historian – Gillian Richardson – Plans are in the works to create digital records for archives of Minutes and early newsletters only available in print form.

14) Outings Committee – Pat Danforth spoke for the committee (Pat, Dawn McDonald, Hanne Mackay) who wish to retire from their positions. Pat has written records of past outings to pass along to the new organizers. She noted appreciation for member participation in these outings. Colin Spence extended our sincere thanks to the committee for their work to give us such a variety of interesting sites to visit. **New for 2023: Cathy Meakes, John Woods, Marcia Woods will organize outings for the coming spring/fall**

15) Young Naturalists – Molly Cooperman -no report

16) Larch Hills Interpretive Trail – Pat Danforth – Work continues, with draft content including site plans well in hand thanks to contributions from volunteer writers. Next step is to finalize indigenous content.

17) Academic Award – Dorothy Parks/Janet Pattinson – report possible in late February

18) Website – Dorothy Parks – **We are seeking a replacement to manage the website.** In the meantime, thanks to Dorothy for agreeing to continue to fill that role.

19) Naturalist Trail – Greg Wiebe – no report

20) Weedpull Project – Ed McDonald – Another weedpull may be held in spring. Watch for a call for volunteers.

21) Coffee Conveners – Pat Turner, Pam Saul, Marcia Woods – Pam Saul asked for a show of hands in support of continuing a refreshment break; the majority voted yes. Marcia noted the value of this social time during the meeting. Please remember to bring your own mug to meetings.

22) Publicity – Loretta Prosser – no report

23) BC/Yukon Nocturnal Owl Survey – Gillian Richardson – Gillian noted that she and Trevor have retired as monitors of a survey route along Notch Hill Road in Sorrento. Anyone wishing to take up this task, please let her know and she will put them in touch with the BC Coordinator.

3. Executive Nominations and Election - Thanks to Mike Saul for leading the election of the new Executive for 2023:

President: Janet Aitken

Vice-President – Di Wittner

Treasurer- Ted Hillary

Secretary – Gillian Richardson

Directors – Janet Pattinson, Colin Spence, Anne Caughlan, Ken Raynor, Barbara Raynor, & Pat Hutchins (to be confirmed)

MOTION: Ted Hillary moved that the signing authorities for the Salmon Arm Savings and Credit Union account of the Shuswap Naturalist Club will be the following: President: Janet Aitken; Vice-President: Di Wittner; Secretary: Gillian Richardson; Treasurer: Ted Hillary. Two of the four must sign. 2nd Joyce Henderson

Sightings:

Cathy Meakes recounted her surprise at a possible, but unusual, penguin sighting on Foxton Beach, New Zealand. (Check news reports on Google for sightings in 2020, thought to be a species of crested penguin)

Ken Raynor – hearing Great Horned Owls every evening lately near his home on 24th St NE.

Ted Hillary – barred owl near his home

Carla Kirkpatrick – talked to someone who experienced a Great Horned Owl ‘diving attack’ at her property on 25th Ave. John Woods cautioned all to be alert to ‘irate’ nesting owls at this time.

MOTION to Adjourn at 8:45 pm: Mike Saul

Break

As our meeting ran overtime tonight, John Woods’ program, “Diversity in BC’s Canada Jays: Echoes of the Ice Age”, was postponed to a future meeting.

Where to send What:

- 1) Please send information you wish to be forwarded to all club members to Ken Raynor, at ken.r.sa.bc@gmail.com. As Communications Director, he will relay upcoming meeting/activity announcements (or cancellations), meeting minutes, information from any of our committees (e.g. BC Nature, Environment).
- 2) Please send any items for/correspondence about an upcoming eNewsletter directly to Ed and Marlene McDonald, mcdonald@airspeedwireless.ca.
- 3) Please send agenda items for the March 7 meeting to Janet Aitken janetaitken1@gmail.com who will Chair the meeting.