

**Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting
Tuesday, January 8, 2019**

Ed McDonald welcomed everyone at 7:00 pm, including Horst Baender's guest Laura Lee.

Minutes:

The December 2018 minutes were accepted as circulated; moved by Janet Pattinson 2nd Sid Visser

Treasurer's Report:

Ted Hillary submitted his Financial Statement for 2018

Bank Balance on January 1, 2018: \$4344.94

Revenue

Coffee	78.05	
Dues	1570.00	
Fundraising	313.76	
Total		\$1961.81

Expenditures

Administration		
Room rent	182.70	
Newsletter/Postage	144.03	
Bank charges	47.95	
Cable-PowerPoint	33.59	
Website	94.32	
Federation of BC Naturalists (dues)	1089.00	
Voice of the Shuswap	100.00	
Shuswap Outdoor Learning	1000.00	
Adams River Salmon Society	100.00	
Christmas Bird Count	75.00	
Total		\$2866.59

Bank balance December 31, 2018 \$3440.16

Ted Hillary moved acceptance of the statement; 2nd Sarah Weaver

Ted also submitted a Budget for 2019

Revenue

Membership dues	1600.00	
Coffee	125.00	
Club funds	625.00	
Fundraising	400.00	
Total		\$2750.00

Expenditures

Federation dues	1300.00	
Room rental	200.00	
Newsletter/postage	150.00	
Website	100.00	

Directors expenses	100.00	
Outdoor summer camp	500.00	
Young Naturalists	200.00	
Miscellaneous	200.00	
Total		\$2750.00

Ted Hillary moved acceptance of the proposed budget; 2nd Pat Mearns

Announcements:

1. New Year greetings from Ed and Monica Dahl came in a letter to Mike and Pam Saul. The Dahls have been active in bird counting around their Comox home.
2. Ed McDonald related the tale of an injured eagle rescue operation. It was found near the mouth of the Salmon River by Glynn Green. He took it to a local vet who contacted Marlene McDonald. She arranged for Wally and Carla Kirkpatrick to take it to Kamloops Wildlife Centre where it was diagnosed with probable rat poisoning. At latest report, the eagle was recovering and will be released.
3. Academic Award update: Ed McDonald received an email from recipient Vanessa Robinson who apologized for missing the presentation event at TRU last fall due to her work schedule. She expressed sincere appreciation for the award, noting she's been doing research into sagebrush galls (insect infestation), snakes in the south Okanagan's White Lake area, and plant/fungus relationships. She will send a letter and photo; watch for it in the February Newsletter and on the website.
4. Gillian Richardson reported that the 19th year of the BC-Yukon Nocturnal Owl Survey will soon be underway (March). For more information or if you wish to join the survey project, contact BC Projects Coordinator Graham Sorenson at BCvolunteer@birdscanada.org

Business:

1. Bird Count – Ted Hillary reported a total of almost 9500 birds including 74 species sighted on December 16. The Fieldfare found on Krick Road was the highlight. This European thrush has only been seen once in BC previously, and as of Jan 8 is still on location.
2. Nest box project – Roger Beardmore and Di Wittner are proceeding with construction of additional nest boxes at Makerspace and the Outdoor School. Students will help with the work and will enjoy some instruction about birds.
3. Avian Pox – Di Wittner received reports of house finches with lesions, and numbers of dead birds in the 8th Ave SE neighborhood. Investigation through a lab in Abbotsford showed the highly contagious virus and staph infections present. The virus is spread through close contact due to flocking behaviour and birds gathering at feeders. If you find dead birds that appear to have this virus, please double-bag them and phone Di at 403-461-2482.
4. Election of Directors for 2019 – Sherry Bowlby conducted the election, resulting in no changes from the 2018 Executive list: President, Ed McDonald; Vice-President, Gillian Richardson; Treasurer, Ted Hillary; Secretary, Michelle Weisinger. Directors at Large: Janet Aitken, Pat Hutchins, Dorothy Parks, Sharon Lawless, Janet Pattinson, and Sarah Weaver (who agreed to fill the vacant spot). Di Wittner will take over as the new BC Nature Representative, from Janet Pattinson whom we thanked for her most capable service in that post for a number of years.

Reports:

1. Save Shuswap Songbirds - Janet Aitken reported on a recent productive meeting of the group and some of the plans for the upcoming year.

a. SSS will work in conjunction with SAGA's planned "Flight" art/photography festival scheduled for April 13-June 1.

b. SSS will approach local schools to suggest the theme 'songbirds' for their annual art exhibit.

c. SSS has approached Meikle Art Studio to encourage bird-related topics for their art classes.

d. Sarah Weaver will approach the Prestige Inn with respect to a display regarding songbirds

e. SSS is creating signs depicting songbirds frequently seen in this area to promote awareness of species to be displayed around the foreshore area.

f. SSS is considering bringing the documentary film, The Messenger, back for a second viewing in Salmon Arm

g. a page to describe Save Shuswap Songbirds and its mission will be created on the SNC and SABNES websites.

Sightings:

Ted Hillary - a red-tailed hawk eating a snipe in Peter Jannink Park (possibly the same snipe reported on the Christmas Bird Count)

Bob Ewart – 200 Cassins finch at Magna Bay

Roger Beardmore – 30 species seen on the recent White Lake Count

Ed McDonald – heard from Linda Franklin about a red-tailed hawk window strike fatality

Mike Saul – having been impressed by jungle fowl he saw in India from atop an elephant, has now seen and heard them in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

7:50 pm - Move to adjourn by Mike Saul.

After the break, Janet Aitken entertained with stories about the superb photos of birds and wildlife seen on her recent Costa Rica trip.