



# SHUSWAP NATURALISTS

## General Meeting - Tuesday, Mar 5, 2019

Ed welcomed everyone at 7:00 pm including a few new faces.

### MINUTES

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The February 2019 minutes were accepted as circulated; moved by Marlene MacDonald, 2nd Janet Aitken.

### TREASURERS' REPORT

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Ted Hillary reported the following for March 2019:

Bank balance Feb 6, 2019: \$4,042.97

Receipts:

Dues \$110.00

Coffee: \$18.85

Interest: \$0.31

BC Nature: \$270.00

Total: \$399.16

Disbursements:

BCN dues \$1161.60

Newsletter \$69.20

Bank balance Mar 5, 2019: \$3,211.33

Patronage: \$0.89

Ted moved acceptance of the report. 2nd Mike Saul.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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1. Sarah Weaver has been busy putting together the brochure for wharf visitors. The final version will be out Mar 20. Ed & Marlene MacDonald will have their phone number listed for emergencies. Di Wittner will have her email address listed for general enquiries. Prestige Hotels have offered to pay for 3000 copies. There is also money available for mapping from the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.
2. This year's local owl count is in March.
3. Shuswap Naturalists logo: we need it for the bird boxes, and also for the brochure. There will be a discussion at the upcoming executive meeting on either changing the logo or else enhancing the existing logo.
4. Recreational drones: We need to ensure there is signage at various places along the waterfront (for example, wharf, foreshore trail, Peter Jannink Park) to say No Drones. There is a heavy fine if users get caught because it's actually against the law.

## BUSINESS

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### 1. **Rats:**

Ed McDonald was asked by Ted Hillary if anyone has been seeing rats (Norway Rats). Salmon Arm has never had rats before and Ted and others have been seeing rats lately, esp this winter. Rat poison: not an ideal solution, as raptors will eat the rats and then die. Rat traps: also not ideal, as they can catch other animals as well. Better solutions: keep cats indoors - will increase natural predators' presence around neighbourhoods, and they will predate rats. Also, keep compost regularly turned.

### 2. **Nest boxes** (Roger Beardmore):

50 boxes have now been made at the Makerspace, and they have been painted by students from the Outdoor school. School and Makerspace logos are on the box as well. Thanks to our club members who have donated their time to this project, and to local businesses.

### 3. **Save the Shuswap Songbirds** (Janet Aitken, Gillian Richardson):

- Discussion to take the public on outings and talk about the songbirds seen and also why more aren't seen.
- There is a page on our own website as well as SABNES's site.
- Durable posters have been made and are available for distribution.
- Salmon Arm Art Gallery show (Decline of Songbirds) is happening in April. For a \$75 donation you can get a bird button; proceeds go to the gallery.

### 4. **Show and Tell:**

Roger Beardmore: Pauline Hickson called him to say that she had an unusual bird at her feeder. Turns out it was a nuthatch with Avian Keratin Disorder. This is an increasingly common disease characterized by debilitating beak overgrowth - always elongated, sometimes crossed, and often with irregularities. Recent research suggests that a virus may be the cause.

Mike Saul: Apple Snail – was in Cuba, has now invaded Florida. Kites eat them, and also Limpkins. They saw several limpkins on their recent trip to Florida, and Mike saw a total of 113 bird species on this trip!

## REPORTS

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Janet Pattinson is away at the moment.

## SIGHTINGS

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Clive has a new photography book. We can get it tonight for \$33, otherwise it's \$45.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Saul at 7:45 pm.

After the break, Shelley Ross gave a presentation on her paddling trip on the Mackenzie River.