



Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting

Tuesday, Oct 1, 2019

Ed McDonald welcomed everyone at 7:00 pm. A special welcome to Gary Hunt – Thompson Okanagan Shuswap Coordinator for BC Nature. In addition to being on the BC Nature board; Gary facilitates communication among the Thompson Okanagan clubs. Also, welcome to tonight's guest speaker: Sue Davies, from the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society.

MINUTES

The September 2019 minutes were accepted as circulated; moved by Janet Pattinson, 2nd Gillian Richardson.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ted Hillary reported the following for October 2019:

Bank balance on Sept 3, 2019:	\$4,423.25
Revenue:	
Interest	\$0.18
Total:	\$0.18
Disbursements:	
Newsletters	\$86.72
School District 83	\$182.70
Total	\$269.42
Bank balance Oct 1, 2019:	\$4,154.01
Patronage:	\$0.89

Ted moved acceptance of the report, 2nd Greg Wiebe.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Scott and Julia Marmont, who have a farm at Paxton Valley, emailed Ed McDonald to ask the club if anyone would be interested in housesitting while they go to Mexico at the end of November.
2. There has been an ongoing decline in bird numbers since 1970. However, Ed did some research, and found that waterfowl have gone up by 87% since 1970; and raptors have increased by 200% since 1970. Songbirds, however, have declined by 30% since 1970 – this is where we should put our focus.

3. On Friday, we had about 50 international exchange students from TRU; they were taken around on a field trip around the bay – led by 4 naturalists. It was organized by Di Wittner.

BUSINESS

1. Committee on the Larch Hills Interpretive Trail (Dawn McDonald): Our club has been asked to write up interpretive signs for this trail. Originally opened around 1980, it is now a snowshoe trail. The committee invites others to join, especially those that are familiar with the process of getting signage up.
2. Important Bird Area (Di Wittner): we're trying to get Salmon Arm Bay to have receive this international designation, as this would provide us with certain benefits. It's a science-based status, based on population monitoring and gathered publishable data, and can be granted for either water bird or rare bird populations. We must have 1% of the global population to qualify for the rare bird option (for Western Grebes), and we don't have enough. South Thompson has about 2% of the world's population of Trumpeter Swans, so they have an IBA designation. We cannot qualify for this. However, Di will look into the provincial designation of important nature areas.
3. Nest box update (Di Wittner): we had 92 boxes avail at the beginning of the summer. There was a total of 55 successful swallow nests, up from last year's 29. Other numbers: 4 chickadee nests, 2 duck boxes had nests, with 5 unhatched eggs in one. 1 bluebird nest, 1 house sparrow nest, 1 unknown nest. 1 duck box had a flying squirrel. 3 boxes went missing. And, there were lots of spiders! The bat box at 2A is occupied by bats. Also, bat boxes are available for purchase at Makerspace. Two signs are being put up acknowledging Nature BC's contribution to the nest box project.

REPORTS

1. Wildlife Rescue:
 - a. Report of a Piliated Woodpecker at Notch Hill. Ed & Marlene McDonald went out and took it in. Although it looked healthy, it did die at the rescue centre.
 - b. Injured hawk at Silver Creek reported – McDonalds went out, but the birds were just flying low.
 - c. A juvenile Red-Tailed Hawk was picked up from the SPCA and taken to the centre. It was doing well and will be released.
 - d. Di Wittner picked up a great blue heron.
 Ed, Marlene, and Di are looking for anyone who would like to volunteer to drive – please add yourself to the list.
2. Songbird Committee - Janet Aitken: there is a committee meeting coming up.

SIGHTINGS

- Greg Wiebe: saw two swans at Peter Jannink Park, and half a dozen pelicans as well.
- Ed & Marlene saw a Barred Owl at Sunnybrae Park.
- Loretta Prosser: large frog, which turned out to be a Western Toad, at the Kingfisher Hatchery.

Motion to adjourn by at 7:50 pm by Ed McDonald, speaking for Mike Saul who is away.

After the break, Sue Davies from CSISS gave a presentation on American bullfrogs.