



# Delta Naturalists Society

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## DELTA NATURALISTS SOCIETY MEETING – Minutes Tuesday, April 2, 2019

**Welcome:** President Tom Bearss welcomed everybody, including two members of Surrey/White Rock Naturalists, and introduced the (very) few members of executive present. He thanked Vice President Elizabeth Perrin for taking minutes of this meeting. Tom then promoted our regular 50/50 draw overseen, as usual, by Mike Betts.

**Minutes:** David Hoar moved approval of the circulated, draft minutes of our March 2019 meeting prepared by Syd Barber. Jennifer Melville-Roberts seconded the motion, which was carried. These minutes are posted on our Members Only website.

**Mail:** Treasurer Jim Kneesch was not at the meeting so no mail was reported.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom tabled the interim March 31, 2019 financial report prepared by Jim Kneesch. There was little change from the previous month. Bank balance was \$6,896.

**Acknowledgements:** Tom reported that Audrey is making progress in her recovery but is not yet able to produce her very informative *newsletter*. Tom thanked Geof for yet another, highly artistic *poster* advertising our speaker and her presentation. Finally, Tom turned to our *social convener*, Joanne, who thanked everyone who brought treats for our enjoyment tonight (Valerie W. Valerie F. Viviane B. and Marilynn K.) Joanne reminded members that our annual Garden Party will be held June 22 at Carol and Paul Rennie's home in Richmond. Exact time to be determined but it will be late afternoon.

**Environment Issues:** Anne Murray presented the following report:

A number of meetings of importance to Delta Naturalists have just happened or are about to happen.

1. On 13 March, I met with Delta Municipality environment staff as a representative of Delta Naturalists. Also present were BSC staff and Consultants hired by Delta. The purpose of the meeting was to review proposed posters (pictures of birds and text) that will be put in bus shelters later in the year. A series of 4 seasonal posters each with a different bird were proposed by the Consultant. We were invited to comment. These posters will replace the beautiful Fraser map that James Casey made for last summer's bus shelter display. Other ideas for signage/public communications were also briefly discussed.

2. On Thursday afternoon 4 April I am attending a MetroVancouver workshop to continue the discussion of the future of Iona bird habitat once the sewage treatment plant undergoes its major renovation. Other naturalists (e.g. Bev Ramey from Nature Vancouver) will also attend.
3. The Delta Naturalists Birds and Biodiversity Strategy working group will meet at Nicki Brockamp's house on Friday 12 April from 4 – 6pm. This is a changed time from Thursday to accommodate me. The group will draft some action ideas to present to Delta Council. Last year we focused on approval of the municipal Strategy, brochure printing and distribution, posters, flags and other visible support for IOC2018. This year we have a longer list of action items linked to the Strategy that we will be discussing and attempting to prioritise.
4. Before April 15 (and realistically before April 7), I will be sending a written submission on behalf of DNS in response to the Public Hearing for Deltaport Terminal 2. I have signed up to speak on behalf of DNS with the permission of the DNS Executive. The hearing will likely be May 14 or 15. I have nearly finished drafting our submission. It follows the very strong recommendation earlier from Climate Change and Environment Canada that building Terminal 2 will risk breaking the Pacific Flyway for Western Sandpipers which could lead to extinction of this shorebird species, due to loss of vital migration feeding habitat. I have been provided with the necessary scientific facts to make a strong statement to this effect. I will need the approval of the Executive fairly quickly to make the deadline for submission.
5. I am going to the BC Nature annual general meeting and conference in Duncan the weekend of 2- 5 May.
6. I am giving my talk "In Search of Birds – an Adventure in China" at White Rock and Surrey Naturalists monthly meeting on May 9. Thank you to members of DNS who attended my Langley talk .
7. Finally, James Casey of Bird Studies Canada is looking for photographs for the Fraser Delta Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) website. Particularly sought after are pictures not of birds but of environmental issues related to the site. Any photographs with people in them must be accompanied by written permission for publication on line by the people portrayed.

Liz Walker from Surrey/White Rock Naturalists mentioned the Surrey Environmental Extravaganza April 13 to June 9. Info at [www.surrey.ca/extravaganza](http://www.surrey.ca/extravaganza).

#### **BCN and Speakers:**

Anita reminded people of the upcoming BC Nature Conference and AGM in Duncan which she will be attending along with Tom and Anne Murray. Rochelle Farquhar also plans to attend for one day.

Our May 7 speaker will be Krista de Groot from Environment Canada presenting on Bird - Window Collisions – Causes and Solutions.

**Activity since March 5 Meeting:** Three DNCB outings – 1. Quarterly Birds on the Bay Outing 2. Iona Regional Park 3. Point Roberts. Check the DNCB Blog at: [www.dncb.wordpress.com](http://www.dncb.wordpress.com) for reports and photos. Outings leave Petra's at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings.

**Other Activity Reports since March 5 meeting:**

- 1) Fri. March 15. Cleaned/closed Nest Boxes at BBPA and Kings Links, 9:30 a.m.
- 2) Tues. Mar. 19, DNS Executive meeting, Tom's home.
- 3) Sat. Mar, 23 Checked "successful" Barn Owl boxes in BBRP, 7:30 p.m.
- 4) Thurs. Mar. 28 Installed Kestrel Box at Kings Links Golf Course, 9:30 a.m.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

- 1) Fri. Apr. 5, BBPA meeting, Cammidge House, 10:00 am;
- 2) Sat. Apr. 6, Birds in Focus visual presentations, Tsa Arts Centre, 6:30-9:30 pm, three great nature photographers are presenting;
- 3) Thurs. April 11, Nats Bird Strategy Team meeting, Nicki's home, 9:00 a.m. (subsequently changed to Fri. April 12 at 4:00 p.m.);
- 4) Sun. Apr. 14, Birds in Focus Photography Workshop, Cammidge House, 9:00-1:00 pm, led by our very own Jack MacDonald;
- 5) Sun Apr 14, Delta fish release 11:30-2:00 Watershed Park, North Delta; Display Coordinator Terry and his volunteers will be there with our display and Tom is going to lead a birding walk for families, as well;
- 6) Tues. Apr. 23 DNS Executive meeting, Tom's home 7:30 p.m.;
- 7) Sat. June 8, first of 7 Car Boot Sales, Centennial Beach, 8:00 a.m. to noon.

**Display Events 2019 (Coordinator Terry Carr):**

Sat. May 11, Delta/Surrey Regional Heritage Fair, Harris Barn, 11:00 to 1:30p.m.

Sun. Jun. 16 Father's Day Pancake Breakfast 9:00- to 12:00, Centennial Beach

Sun, Aug. 18 Animal Expo, 10:00 to 3:00, Memorial Park, Ladner

Sun. Aug. 18 Richmond Raptor and Garlic Fest, 10:00 to 3:00, Terra Nova Park

Sat. Aug. 24 Metro Vancouver Parks Bird Event, Iona Regional Park

Sat. Sept. 7 Day at the Farm, 10:00 to 4:00, Westham Island Herb Farm

Fall 2019 (Oct. 19?) Starry Night-like event, Deas Island Regional Park, details to follow

**Other Reports:**

**DNS “Program Review”** – Syd Barber reported on an initiative to review DNS programs and activities which will start with a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis to be carried out in June. Results will be shared with members in the fall with an opportunity for feedback.

**Bird Box Team Report:** Jack MacDonald advised that there is a video on our flickr site showing the interior of Barn Owl boxes in Boundary Bay Regional Park.

**Notable Sightings:** Several members saw Mountain Bluebirds in BBRP and there was a sighting in Richmond of an American Bittern.

**50/50:** Mike Betts had the winning ticket and donated his winnings to DNS.

**Speaker:** Tom adjourned the business portion of the meeting and introduced Bev Ramey presenting on Double-Crested Cormorants – Friend or Foe?

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 7, 7:30 p.m. with Krista de Groot from Environment Canada presenting on Bird Window Collisions: Causes and Solutions.