



DELTA NATURALISTS SOCIETY

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DELTA NATURALISTS MONTHLY MEETING

January 5, 2016

Welcome: Tom introduced members of the Exec. and Directors. There were two visitors this evening: Jenny Hards and Graham Sunderland.

Minutes: Rob McGregor moved that the Minutes of the December 1, 2015 meeting be approved; Carol Rennie seconded. The motion was carried. Tom also pointed out the December newsletter and all agreed that it was excellent.

Mail: Jim Kneesch informed us that four membership cheques have been received since the last meeting.

Treasurer & Membership: Jim Kneesch indicated that the number of memberships effective December 31, 2015 was 75. Of these 49 are individual members; 26 are family. Since then, another four or five new members have joined our ranks.

Membership cards were handed out to those members present. Members may be eligible to receive discounts on bird seed at the Tsawwassen Wild Bird Centre.

Our bank balance effective 31 December 2015 was \$5816.27. The fund for the new scope is now up to \$1600+. Due to the current currency differences between the Canadian and U.S. dollar, the cost for a new scope has increased substantially. Donations are tax deductible.

Newsletter: Audrey, as always, encouraged members to submit articles. This past newsletter included wonderful pictures of birds taken by some of our members.

Publicity: Valerie reported that all is well. Our p.r. seems to be drawing in visitors.

Social: Elizabeth Perrin/LizStewart/AudreyCoutts/Joanne Williamson: Elizabeth reported that the sign-up sheets for January to March goodies have vanished. These will be recirculated. Tom thanked those who had brought goodies. He

subsequently thanked Joanne van Snellenberg by e-mail for her delicious cookies.

Environment Issues: Nicki Brockamp reported on the Birds and Biodiversity Committee news. Delta Council had agreed that Delta needs a Birds and Biodiversity Strategy and have designated staff to work on this. Nicki indicated that the Delta Nats. subcommittee wants to stay involved, by working with the Delta staff.

Anita reported on the public information session concerning WESPAC's proposal to build a jetty to enable transport of LNG. B.C. Gas is expanding its capacity to convert natural gas to LNG, and WESPAC clearly wants to "cash in" on this expansion. There were two sessions: one in North Delta and one in Ladner. The meetings were hosted by Dr. Eoin Finn and Kevin Washbrook of Voters Taking Action on Climate Change. The deadline for comments on the scope of the environmental assessment proposed by WESPAC was December 17th. Further information can be found at <http://reallnghearings.org/>. More than 500 people have submitted comments.

A more detailed report on this proposal will be part of the January 2016 newsletter.

Archives Committee: Geof Hacker: Nothing new to report.

Activity since December 1 Meeting:

Five outings since Dec. 1 meeting to: 1) Birds on the Bay in BBRP, 2) Blaine/Semiahmoo USA, 3) Alaksen & Reifel, 4) Burnaby Lake Park, and 5) this morning to Tsawwassen Ferry Causeway and Alaksen.

Check DNCB Blog at: www.dncb.wordpress.com for reports and photos. Outings leave Petra's at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Other Activity Reports since Dec. 1 meeting:

- 1) Sun. Dec. 6, Santa at Cammidge House, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- 2) Thurs. Dec. 10, Barn Owl Box Installation at King's Links.
- 3) Sun. Dec. 27, Ladner Christmas Bird Count & Sun. Jan. 3, WR/S Christmas Bird Count - Marylile Martin, Rob McGregor and Tom Bearss did one on the river near Westham Island
Note: Due to poor weather on these dates, the count was 133 different species. This is down from previous years.

Future Meetings/Events:

- 1) Fri. Jan 8, BBPA Meeting, Cammidge House, 10:00 a.m.
- 2) Tues. Jan. 19, DNS Executive meeting, 7:30 p.m. Tom's home
- 3) Sat. Feb. 27, NatureKids NatureBlitz at Reifel on Sat. Feb. 27 (with Delta Nats. Display). Alaksen has agreed to have its grounds open as well on that day.

OTHER NEWS: Ursula informed us of an upcoming film on Monday, January 18th at 7 p.m. at the Vancouver Public Library. The film is entitled A JOURNEY TO THE DELETED ISLANDS and focuses on the problems of using the Douglas Channel as a gateway for freighters carrying tarsands oil. More information can be found at <http://naturevancouver.ca/node/2632>.

Nature Vancouver also lists other coming events in its monthly newsletter. These are well worth a look.

Sightings; 50/50 (Rob M), Collect 2015/16 Membership fees.

Anita den Dikken and Nicki Brockamp had both seen ruby-crowned kinglets on this past Saturday. The one at Anita's had a red crown which was prominent, and not only that, but he clearly wanted to come inside (it was cold outside).

SPEAKER: Tom introduced Professor David (Dov) Lank from SFU. David gave an interesting presentation on his 30 year adventures with Ruffs. These birds demonstrate some atypical behaviours related to the colours of their ruffs. One % of these male birds resemble females; interesting mating behaviours were illustrated.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 2, 7:30 p.m. at Benediction Lutheran Church. Ian Thomas will give a presentation on Birds of the Coffee Forest.