



Delta Naturalists Society

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DELTA NATURALISTS SOCIETY MEETING – Minutes

Draft 3

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Welcome: President Tom Bearss welcomed everybody, including several new faces in the crowd, and introduced the executive present. He thanked Vice President Elizabeth Perrin, absent due to family health reasons, for chairing the February meeting. Tom then promoted our regular 50/50 draw overseen, as usual, by Mike Betts.

Minutes: Joyce Manary moved approval of the circulated, draft minutes of our February 2019 meeting. Jennifer Melville-Roberts seconded the motion, which was carried. These minutes are posted on our Members Only website.

Mail: Treasurer Jim reported that no mail was received during the previous month.

Treasurer's Report: Jim tabled the Feb. 28, 2019 financial report. It details several miscellaneous deposits and one small expenditure in February, producing a bank balance of \$6,959, little changed from the end of January. Treasurer Jim also reported that two membership applications were received during the previous month.

Acknowledgements: Tom reported that Audrey is recovering from her fall but is yet unable to get back to producing her very informative *newsletter*. Tom thanked Geof for production of 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. Joanne commented that we're seeking a volunteer to host our annual June garden party. Paul and Carol Rennie indicated, in response, that they are interested in hosting this social gathering at their home in Richmond.

Environment Issues: Anita reported that several provincial rod and gun clubs have recently promoted contests to kill predators. This is reprehensible. BC Nature is signing on to a letter of protest to the provincial government.

Susan Jones reported that the Roberts Bank port expansion proposal review process is continuing. The proposal is to double every facet of this port facility. This has significant environmental implications. Public hearings are about to commence. One must register by March 22 in order to be able to speak at them. Written submissions are due by April 15.

Upcoming Speakers: Speaker coordinator Anita advised that the next three speakers are:

- Apr. 2nd – Bev Ramey – “Double Crested Cormorants – Friend or Foe?”
- May 7th – Krista de Groot from Environment Canada – “Bird-Window Collisions – Causes and Solutions, and
- June 4th – McGill’s Prof. Emeritus David Bird – Birds and their sex lives.

BCNature Report: Tom reminded everybody of the BC Nature Conference & AGM in Duncan, May 2-5, 2019. He and Anita are registered for it. (*Note: Anne Murray is also reportedly registered to attend*).

Recent Society Activities: Tom reported there has been only three Delta Naturalists Casual Birding (DNCB) outings since our February meeting: 1) Blaine & Semiahmoo Park, Washington; 2) Ferry Terminal, TFN & Reifel and, 3) De Bouville Slough this morning. Check the DNCB Blog at: www.dncb.wordpress.com for reports and photos. Outings leave Petra’s at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings (but will switch to Wednesday mornings starting in April).

Other activities since our Feb. 5 meeting include:

- 1) Tues. Feb. 19, DNS Executive meeting, Tom’s home;
- 2) Sat. Feb. 23, Delta CultureFest, North Delta Rec Centre - set up and staffed our display; event not too well attended;
- 3) Sun. Feb. 24, Heritage Day at Cammidge House – Jim Kneesch and Mike Bayliss from Bird Box team displayed building a barn owl nest box; about 200 people in attendance at overall event;
- 4) Thurs. Feb. 28, led a bird box workshop for Nature Kids at Cammidge House;
- 5) Thurs. Feb. 28, installed 3rd Barn Owl nesting box at Kings Links Golf Course; the first two have been used by barn owls;
- 6) Mar. 1, Boundary Bay Park Association meeting, Cammidge House.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- 1) Wed. Mar. 13, Quarterly Birds on the Bay outing, Cammidge House, 9:00 am;
- 2) Fri. Mar. 15, Clean/close Tree Swallow nest boxes at Kings Links Golf Course and BBRP, 10:00 am;
- 3) Tues. Mar. 19, DNS Executive meeting, Tom’s home, 7:30 pm;
- 4) Tues, Apr. 2, regular monthly meeting of DNS, Tsa Lutheran Church, 7:30 pm;
- 5) Fri. Apr. 5, BBPA meeting, Cammidge House, 10:00 am;
- 6) Sat. Apr. 6, Birds in Focus visual presentations, Tsa Arts Centre, 6:30-9:00 pm, three great bird photographers are presenting;
- 7) Sun. Apr. 14, Birds in Focus Photography Workshop, Cammidge House, 9:00-1:00 pm, led by our very own Jack McDonald, and

- 8) Sun Apr 15, fish release 12-2 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.

Bird Box Team Report: Peter Ward reported on behalf of the team. He expressed appreciation for the \$2,000 grant that Delta Nats recently received from BC Nature in support of our barn owl nest box building program. This will provide sufficient funding for materials to build 6, latest generation, nesting boxes. Construction of these new boxes will start soon, even while the team is looking (in consultation with other knowledgeable people, including farmers) for suitable sites to place them.

Notable Sightings: The Casual Birding group saw a Hawk Owl this morning during their outing to Pitt Meadows. Val reported seeing a female Sharp-shinned Hawk eating a rat near her house.

Next Meeting: Tom reminded us that our next monthly meeting is on Tuesday, April 2 at the regular time of 7:30 and the regular, Lutheran Church venue. Bev Ramey will speak on Double-crested Cormorants.

Meeting Adjournment: President Tom adjourned this business part of the meeting at 8:10 PM.