



Delta Naturalists Society

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MINUTES – General Meeting – December 7th, 2021

Via ZOOM

1. **Welcome and call to order** – Syd opened the meeting at 7:30pm.
2. **Introduction of executive and new members** – Syd introduced the new members of our executive, Lorraine Mwenifumbo and David Hoar and welcomed the current executive members. Our new member Thea Beckman was present and she introduced herself.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – Approval of the Agenda was given by the membership.
4. **Approval of October 5th general meeting minutes** – Motion moved by Audrey Coutts and seconded by Paul Rennie. Adopted.
5. **Financial/Membership Report** - Jim informed us that our bank balance is \$20,075.28. This amount includes the \$10,000. received from the dissolution of the Boundary Bay Parks Assoc. Jim reviewed the financial report. He answered queries about the costs for the brochures and stated that we were well within budget on this initiative.

To date, we have 63 individual memberships and 35 family memberships.

6. **Report on November 26th executive meeting** – Syd reported that the executive initiatives for next year are to: 1. Explore the return to some in-person gatherings with a social component. 2. Conduct a review of our internal and external communications and 3. Create a relationship with Metro Vancouver Parks. He thanked Chris McVittie for agreeing to spearhead our connection with MVP. Syd will create a short, annual work plan for the executive. He welcomed Jonathan Mwenifumbo as our Membership Coordinator. Syd has agreed to be our BC Nature representative.

More information on the executive meeting can be found in our December newsletter.

7. **Cascade Bird Box Team Report** – Jim informed us that Ken Borrie and Jack MacDonald are updating our web site to indicate the locations of the Cascade Bird Boxes. The Team has recently delivered the following:

- City of Surrey – 12 Tree Swallow and 4 Wood Duck nest boxes
- Megan Buers – Okanagan – 20 Screech Owl nest boxes
- Sofi Hindmarch – Lower Mainland – 28 Screech Owl boxes
- Big Bar Lake (Peter Ward) – 1 assembled and 2 Bat box kits

The Team is covering the black roofs on the barn owl boxes with bright metal roofs. This is expected to reduce the extreme heating conditions experienced this summer in the interior of the boxes which resulted in a possible loss of between twenty to thirty owlets.

8. **Birds and Biodiversity Committee Report** – Anne Murray presented her report. With regard to the status of the brochures –

- Woodland Plants (the second plants brochure, led by David Hoar) is with the layout guy, Miles.
- The Fungi brochure (Nicki and Glen) has been a challenge as fungi are a kingdom (like plants and animals) so a huge task to decide which ones to include. Layout is now underway.

The Committee (Glen and Anne) with input from Syd have been developing a brochure on the harassment of owls and wildlife in general. This is an additional brochure and requested by the Southcoast Land Conservation Land Management Program staff because of the urgency of the situation on Delta's dykes. It will be finalized soon.

Lots of our brochures have been distributed and media releases have been forwarded to Facebook, Twitter as well as to various organizations and BC Nature clubs.

The Committee met recently and updated all the brochure information on the website.

In partnership with the City of Delta, Birds Canada and the Surrey/White Rock Naturalist, the Committee is planning a Fraser River Estuary IBA/KBA bioblitz which will be held in the Spring.

Anne presented on the FRE (Fraser River Estuary) IBA/KBA to a Birds Canada symposium attended by 50+ people from around Canada and mentioned the work of DNS.

The Bat Event with the City was postponed due to weather and will take place in April 2022.

9. **Other Business** – Debbi Hlady reported on the Backyard Bird Contest. Through November twelve active members reported between 11 and 33 species.

Congratulations to the three top yard listers –

Grant E. 33 species (box of suet/8 pack)

Nicki B. 28 species (bird friendly plant \$15. gift card Sunnyside nursery)

Val F. 25 species (half box bird suet/4 pack)

Debbi will be sending out the compilation of the results of the November Bird Count in the coming month.

10. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned by Syd at 8:00pm.

11. **Presentation – Dr. Christian Sasse – Creative Astrophotography and Hummingbirds in Slow Motion** – Elizabeth introduced our presenter Dr.Sasse. His passion is photography. With enthusiasm and precision Dr. Sasse took us from far and beyond back to his own backyard. Under the evening sky in Australia, with the sounds of kangaroos nearby, he explained the world of astrophotography, layering one photo over another at one hour intervals to create artistic patterns. From there he introduced us to Dutch Harbour, Alaska featuring the slow motion flight of many eagles. Back home again we were fascinated with the manoeuvres of hummingbirds in slow motion. It was an entertaining and eclectic presentation and Dr.Sasse encourages us to be curious about the world.

12. **January's presentation** – Our next general meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, January 4th, 2022 at 7:30pm. Sarah Schreier will speak on the Fraser River White Sturgeon.