



## Delta Naturalists Society

PO Box No. 18044, 1215C 56th Street, Delta, B.C. V4L 2M4

email: [deltanaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:deltanaturalists@gmail.com)

Web: <https://dncb.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DeltaNats>

### Membership meeting Tuesday, November 7, 2023

### Ladner All Saints Anglican Church Hall and by Zoom

#### *Draft Minutes*

1. **7:00 – 7:30 PM** Members assembled in the church hall, enjoying one another's company, and the food and beverages on tap, while our technical team of Jim, Jack and David conferred with speaker John Gordon regarding the technical setup for his presentation. Member's 'Zooming' into the meeting came on-line under Jim's guidance. For the first time for a 'regular', hybrid, monthly meeting (vs the new, quarterly, social variant) more people attended in person (23) than by Zoom.
2. **7:30 PM** – President Syd called the meeting to order and welcomed new member Gail and guest Linda.
3. Agenda approval – The tentative agenda was approved with the addition of a Backyard Birding commentary (Debbi Hlady) and an update on membership renewal efforts (Syd)
4. Minutes of June 6 (last regular) meeting – This item was deferred pending circulation of the June 6 minutes. The Oct. AGM minutes, which were recently distributed, will be submitted for approval at the 2024 AGM, as is the custom.
5. Financial and membership report – Treasurer Jim spoke to the Oct. 28 financial summary that he produced and distributed as part of the meeting information package last week. He reported that our expenditures to date this fiscal year (Sept. and Oct.) have been very modest, totalling only \$804. Paid up memberships stand at 31 Family and 57 Individual memberships, below our final tally from last year, but we're optimistic that the gap will be significantly narrowed and possibly erased through the impending final push to encourage members to renew.  
Debbi Hlady asked about the status of the youth membership proposal that she advanced earlier this fall. Syd replied that the executive has discussed this intriguing proposal but determined that it was too late to implement it for this year. It will be

reconsidered next year. Jim Ronback asked how many members have not paid up yet and Jim Kneesch responded that about 20 have not done so.

6. Nature Notes update – Elizabeth reported that the Delta Optimist is going to continue our Nature Notes column for 2024. She commented that the proportion of columns written by DNS members has declined over the three years of this initiative, relative to those authored by our conservation organization partners. She encouraged members to consider the possibility of writing a column sometime during the next year.
7. Cascade Bird Box Team report – Peter gave an impromptu report on the current work of this group. He told us that they are hard at work building barn owl boxes to fill the orders they have totaling 25 boxes. These are being built on a cost recovery basis and will be going all over the Lower Mainland, augmenting the approximately 100 Cascade barn owl boxes already in place in this region. Peter reported that the group is also building a few bat boxes and some more tree swallow boxes, also to satisfy paid demand.
8. Other business
  - a) Debbi told us she has researched the lifetime, backyard E-bird listing activity of DNS members and, on the strength of that, declares Anne Murray as the winner in terms of species observed with 80 species (399 lists). Grant Edwards is a close second, having documented 79 species (578 lists) in or from his backyard, with Jim Kneesch close behind at 77 species (105 lists). Honourable mention goes to Liz Stewart, Nicki Brockamp and Peter Ward. Debbi underlined the significant contribution made to ornithology science by E-Bird listing. (*Ed. Note: Debbi modestly neglected to mention that both she and her daughter Kathryn have documented 93 backyard species in 277 and 181 lists, respectively*)
  - b) Syd reported that the executive will soon be following up directly with all DNS members who have not yet renewed their membership, encouraging them to do so. This follow-up has proved effective in recent years, resulting in most people renewing.
9. **8:00 PM** – Elizabeth introduced our guest speaker, John Gordon, who gave us an informative one-hour talk/slide show on UK birds. Mr. Gordon answered a number of questions at the end of his talk, then was thanked by Elizabeth for taking the time to share his photos and knowledge of UK birds with us.
- 10. Next meeting: Tues. Dec. 5** - Xmas social. No club business session. Presentation by David Hoar on Brazil's Pantanal plus a special contribution by Jonathan Mwenifumbo

