

Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Ed welcomed everyone at 7:05 p.m. It was good to see long-time members Marie, Bliss (who now live in Vernon) and Marie's sister Lois. Janet brought her sister, Sarah.

Minutes:

The minutes were accepted as circulated. Moved by Greg, 2nd by Janet.

Treasurer's report:

Ted reported the following for March 2011:

Bank balance as of April 5, 2011 was \$4053.02.

Revenue:

Dues \$150.00

Coffee \$8.90

Checklist (from Credit Union) \$900.00

Expenditures:

Web site \$93.98

Bank balance on May 3 \$5018.03

Ted moved acceptance of the report, 2nd Sherry.

Ted also mentioned he's just received a cheque from SABNES for the Checklist for \$375.

Announcements:

1. The Checklist is now at the printers.
2. "Drop in the Bucket": Friends of Gardom Lake and BC Lake Stewardship Society will be co-hosting the BCLSS annual conference at the Bible Camp at Gardom Lake May 13-15. SNC will have a display.
3. Val Jansen from Salmon Arm Golf Course would be eager to host us again for a field trip. She has set up a butterfly garden, and posted nesting areas as 'off limits' to golfers, who are embracing the initiatives enthusiastically. Val also reports from her home near Gardom Lake that since the yellow perch has been eradicated, dragonfly nymphs, grebes and frogs singing loudly at night are welcome returnees.
4. Breeding Bird Atlas: now in the 4th year of 5, the project needs a boost from participants to complete remaining 22 squares. As well, over 300 point counts need to be done. Ted urged everyone to get out there from mid-May to Mid July to survey nesting birds in your squares.

Business:

1. Baille Birdathon: Geoff and the Twits, comprised of 9 keen birders, roamed areas from Douglas Plateau to Larch Hills and points in between. They shared tales at Hillary's for dinner afterwards. Counting 106 species, the group has raised \$845 to be shared between Bird Studies Canada and SNC. Donations are still being accepted: easiest way is online. Geoff hopes to see this as an annual event.
2. The outing to Loftus Lake, Hermit Pond and Peterson Pond proved fascinating as examples of the evolution of a wetland ecosystem. Loftus Lake is now a fen, with little or

no water from its underground or stream sources. Hermit Pond (Greer Rd) was full of water in 1915, but water now only fills a narrow channel around the edges. Peterson Pond is still a lake. The outing group collected over 30 species in sightings.

3. Janet will be going to the BC Nature AGM, and welcomes comments about the Resolutions. Email Janet if you have thoughts to share.

Reports

1. SABNES – Don: a reminder that the SABNES AGM will be held on May 26.

Memberships are now due: forms are available.

2. Environment: Sherry reported that data about the elevation (re: flood plain) of the city is available on a map.

3. Good news: Ed congratulated Elizabeth May on her win for the Green Party. Ted Kay described the 1000s of tiny salmon hatching on the Adams River. To see them, go to the new bridge, walk downstream and look in shallow channels. He also saw an otter having such easy meal pickings that was too focused to notice human presence.

Sightings:

Ed/Marlene, at Douglas Plateau: 70 blue birds, vesper sparrows, meadow larks and 700+ coots

Geoff/Hanne: orange crowned warbler, Nashville warbler, mountain bluebirds, sandhill cranes heard, Cassins vireo, western meadow lark north of Enderby

Ted: mountain bluebird at Yankee Flats

Rosemarie: white crowned sparrows, rufous hummingbirds

Dorothy: likely dusky grouse at Chase

Karen: turkey vultures, bald eagle and raven all soaring together

Ted/Barb: white throated sparrow, 21 greater white-fronted geese

Motion to adjourn at 7:45 by Joyce.

After the break, Frank Kime shared photos of butterflies of the local area that he and Doris collected in the summer of 1992. That year, different groups within the Club took on the challenge of studying specific species other than birds. Frank suggested this might be fun to do again. Gillian gave Frank a copy of her recently published story, “Eagle’s Trial”. It is based on an incident Frank and Gillian witnessed in May 2003 on Tappen Bay when an eagle appeared to be drowning, but used its wings to row itself and its goose dinner to shore.