

January 16 1986

1986

Marvin Lohr president of Buffalo Lake Naturalists

Buffalo Lake Naturalists held their Annual Meeting on January 16. The executive of 1985 were returned to the same offices. These are: President - Marvin Lohr; Vice President - Jim Burrel; Secretary - Alma Weis and Treasurer is Lloyd Lohr. All committee members remain the same.

A new committee was formed to bring out a Club Newsletter. Members are Barb Smith, Lloyd Lohr, Marvin Lohr, Bertha Clarke, Martha Kruger and Grace Neill.

Convenor of the Sick Committee is Vera Hanson.

Alma Weis read a comprehensive summary of the year's activities and Marvin Lohr gave us his President's Report of the last year.

Future plans included cross-country skiing events, if we ever have enough snow.

Feb 20 1986 program

Buffalo Lake Naturalists

(by Grace Neill)

Thirty-three members attended the regular meeting on Thursday, February 20, and welcomed visitors Hazel Peterson, and Ivan Dawson who brought the evening's entertainment.

The Program Committee had met on January 24, at the Burrells and planned the program for the year, which was distributed to members at the meeting. A number of Thursday evening outings are planned starting in April, also some interesting weekend trips.

Directors attended the Annual Meeting of Federation of Alberta Naturalists, and the Endangered Species Conference in Edmonton on January 25 and 26. Lloyd Lohr reported on the meeting and Jim Burrell on the conference.

Several members went skiing in

Elk Island Park on January 26. The Spring meeting of F.A.N. will be held here on May 10 and 11 with B.L.N. as hosts.

Members on the sick list the past month are the Tremmels, Bertha Smith, Marge Ganske, Martin Graham, and Martha Kruger with a broken arm. All are extended well wishes from the Club.

Ivan Dawson, the world traveller, had a fine show of slides from Europe. We are fortunate to have people who travel to foreign lands and bring back pictures for the rest of us to enjoy, that being the only way for most of us to see those sights.

Lunch was supplied by Cochranes, Faechners and Gladys Hewlett.

The next regular meeting will be held on March 20. A N.F.B. film has been ordered for that time.

March 20 1986

Buffalo Lake Naturalists

(by Grace Neill)

Twenty-three people who attended the March 20 meeting included a new member, Hazel Peterson. We were pleased to see Art Haywood back after a long absence.

Roll call brought out reports of Ducks, Geese, Bluebirds, Blackbirds, Killdeers, Robins, Tree Sparrows, Crows, a Bald Eagle and a nesting Horned Owl. (We saw seagulls the next day).

The first edition of the newly revived Newsletter has been printed, and copies were distributed to those present.

The Spring meeting of F.A.N., which will be held here on May 10 and 11, was discussed and some tentative plans made.

Lloyd Lohr showed slides taken on his Canoe trip on the Peace and Slave Rivers in 1980.

Lunch was served by Haywoods, Hewletts and Art Johnson. The raffle, brought by Barb Smith, was won by Marion Webb.

Since the February meeting,

members were fortunate to get in two skiing outings. On Feb. 23, 16 met at Lloyd Lohr's to try the trail from there to Ewing Lake. Some enjoyed a walk, some beginners took a short trail while the rest made it to the Lake. Coffee was served at Lohr's.

On March 9, the trail from "The Triangle" to Bill Muhlbach's was tried out. The day was warm and the snow was becoming wet but the outing was enjoyed by 19, who did justice to chili and buns and sweets served by Muhlbachs. Bill showed two Nature films. Hosts of both outings are thanked for their kindness.

Next regular meeting will be held on April 17, when Marion Goldstrom of Red Deer will show slides. Marion is a photographer of note, as well as an avid Naturalist and Hiker so her presentation will be well worth seeing.

Spring is officially upon us, and with it will soon come God's gift to us

of wildflowers. Some of His precious gems are becoming increasingly hard to find, due to the destruction of natural habitat by the clearing of woodlands and breaking up of natural sod. Those which come first to mind are the Yellow Lady Slipper, the Tiger Lily or Western Wood Lily, and the Crocus or Prairie Anemone. Where these flowers were previously found in great numbers they are now fast becoming rare in this area. The first two are actually on the "protected" list, which means they should not be picked. By picking the blossoms, the roots are weakened and the plant may well die. So if you find these flowers, enjoy them where they are, photograph them if you wish (a way of having them in your home to admire the year round) but Please Do Not Pick them! They last such a short time after being picked, but if they are left on their plants there is a much better chance that you will still be able to see them next year, and in years to come.

April 17 1986 (another lost newspaper copy)

Twenty five members attended the regular meeting on Thursday, April 17th. There were four visitors, Marion Goldstrom from Red Deer who was our entertainer for the evening, her friend Sylvia Hayhoe, and local ladies Margaret North and Hazel Rechar.

The upcoming meeting of F.A.N. was discussed and plans made. More bluebird houses and a martin house will be placed in West Stettler Recreation Area. The bluebird house nearest the picnic area has been vandalized! Please, people, these have been placed for the good of the birds, and the enjoyment of everyone, so do be so kind as to leave them alone.

Those present thoroughly enjoyed the show of slides by Marion Goldstrom. They included a variety of pictures from the Red Deer area, of birds, animals, flowers, Christmas lights, and an early winter hiking trip to Mt. Assiniboine which proved our friend a hardy soul. Many thanks, Goldie. The raffle supplied by Bertha Smith was won by Barbara Smith. On April 6th a group of fourteen hiked along the abandoned railway from Warden to Harry Skow's. Pussy willows and Poplar catkins were at their fluffy best. Very few birds were seen, but the outing and fellowship were enjoyed.

An outing is planned for Thursday evening, April 24th to Lloyd Lohr's area. Gather at the arena parking lot at 6 P.M.

Then on Sunday April 27th a trip to Big Knife Park will leave the parking lot at 1:30 P.M. Thursday evening outings are planned for each week except for meeting weeks. Watch your programs for details.

Next regular meeting will be on May 15th, with the annual waterfowl hike to Leo's Lake. Meet at the Museum grounds at 7 P.M. Meeting later at the Recreation Centre hall.

May 15 1986

Buffalo Lake Naturalists

(by Grace Neill)

There were 15 members and three visitors on hand for the meeting on May 15. The visitors were Florence and Chester Wilson and Effie Butterwick.

10 of the group spent an hour hiking and bird-watching at Leo's Lake. At least 19 species of birds were identified.

Annual Species Count Day will be either May 24 or 25, whichever participants prefer. These counts are conducted at the same time each year in essentially the same areas, and numbers noted and compared to previous years' counts. They are published in "The Alberta Naturalist", the official publication of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists.

The Spring meeting of F.A.N. was hosted by the local club and held on May 10 and 11. Members from clubs throughout the Province attended. A field trip on the first day was very successful, as over 50 bird species and ten wildflower species in bloom were seen in the Bar Harbor and Boss Hill area. On Sunday's field trip to Content and Tail Creek area 16 bird species and White-tailed Deer were seen. Lloyd Lohr, and some members from Edmonton took a canoe trip down river a few miles, which was greatly enjoyed.

Art Weis has donated five

Bluebird houses and Elmer Gross donated a Martin house, and these have been installed in West Stettler Recreation Park.

The next meeting will be the Annual Hamburger Cookout which is hosted each year by Martha and Ron Kruger. Please be at the Kruger farm by 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 19. A charge of \$2. each will be made for the food, with all proceeds going to the club. Field trips to surrounding areas will include Bluebird banding demonstration. Meeting follows.

June 19 1986

Buffalo Lake Naturalists News

(by Grace Neill)

After a day of threatening weather, the clouds rolled away and the sun shone, making a very pleasant evening for the last meeting of the season and the Annual Hamburger Cookout. The location for the meeting had been changed from Krugers' to Marvin Lohrs' so it could be held inside. Thirty-seven members and friends were there.

A visitor, Daphne Apperley, brought an item of interest she had found in a nature magazine. It concerned a Purple Martin that had been marked in Brazil and found by Dewey Unruh at his Warden area farm, showing how far the birds travel in their annual migration.

A letter has been received from Martin Graham, a member who has been in Edmonton for medical treatment for some time. It was good to

hear from him.

Another Newsletter has been printed, and copies were distributed to members. Plans for future Thursday evening field trips and some weekend outings were discussed.

Most of the group went for a drive to where they could see yellow Lady Slippers, and pink Wintergreen and Bog Orchid were also found. A Bluebird house containing six young birds was visited. Three pairs of Canada Geese with at least twelve young were seen at Postill Lake.

Many thanks to the Krugers and Lohrs for their efforts which made this a delectable meal and a fine outing. Also thanks to Hugh and Nora Charles for donating part of the meat.

On Saturday, June 21, after the opening of West Stettler Recreation Area, a party of 12 led by Lloyd Lohr

walked around the park to see the ten Bluebird houses (mostly occupied by Tree Swallows) and the Martin house with several Purple Martins. A number of duck species, Ringbill and Franklins Gulls, Black Terns, Redwing and Brewers Blackbirds, Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper were seen at the pond. The park is shaping up to be a good spot to observe our feathered friends, right in town.

On Sunday, June 22, 10, B.L.N. members travelled to McKenzie Crossing where they met six Red Deer River Naturalists. Eight of the party canoed down river to Dry Island Buffalo Jump Park where they were met by the rest who had driven over. Some time was spent exploring the area, finding wildflowers and birds and examining strange rock formations. A family of Horned Owls were observed at the bridge, as well as a Pileated Woodpecker. In the park a Cedar Waxwing was found on its nest, and Towhees, Catbird, Orioles and many other birds sang in the trees. A great variety of wildflowers bloom in the rough terrain of the park.

After having a picnic supper the group dispersed to their various destinations, all agreeing it had been a great day of fun and fellowship.

More such outings are in the works, if they are not listed in the program or the newsletter members will be notified by phone. Try to join in, they are both fun and educational. There are so many interesting places to visit, right here in our own vicinity.

September 18 1986 (date)

Buffalo Lake 1986 Naturalists Club news

(by Grace Neill)

A new season of meetings got

underway on Thursday, Sept. 18, with 29 members and three visitors present. Welcome guests were Elmer and Helen McCall and Jesse Kudras.

Roll call was answered by relating recent sightings and interesting events of the summer.

We were sorry to hear Marge Ganske and Bertha Clarke are in hospital. Well wishes go out to both.

A decision was made to order Christmas cards and calendars from Canadian Nature Federation, to be sold by the Club.

Marvin and Bea Lohr, Jim Burrell and Ron Kruger had attended the Federation of Alberta Naturalists meeting in Brooks the previous weekend. Marvin reported on the highlights of the meeting and the rest told of the field trips. Theme of the weekend was Endangered Species Preservation on the Prairies and Helping Wildlife and Agriculture Live Together.

Lloyd Lohr showed slides taken at various outings during the year, and Wilf Hewlett had snapshots to show.

Lunch was supplied by Samantha Kudras, Lloyd, Beulah and Colleen Lohr.

Next meeting will be Thursday, October 16, when George Scoter will give a slide presentation.

October 16 1986

Buffalo Lake Naturalists News

(by Grace Neill)

Twenty-nine members and 10 visitors attended the regular meeting on Thursday, October 16. The visitors included John and Helen Becklund and Dave Sharpe who took out memberships; Gary Greenlee and Wayne Long who brought pictures to show, and Margaret Simons, Fred and Eileen Websdale and Chester and Florence Wilson.

We were glad to see Lloyd Lohr able to come out, after his recent surgery. Others on the sick list were Edie Clark and Art Haywood. Cards were signed for them, and a birthday card for Mike Graham.

The order of Christmas cards and calendars, and some books were on display for sale.

A newspaper article from Brooks states that Naturalists there are preparing to form a Natural History Society. We wish them well and will welcome more news from them.

Before our next meeting, 14 members will be joining members from the Red Deer club on a bus trip to Kalispell, Montana, to see the Salmon Run, and hopefully Bald Eagles and Grizzly Bears. It was suggested that for next month's pro-

gram participants would tell about the trip.

George Scotter was unable to come with his pictures as he had made prior commitments, but has promised to come at a later date. In his place, Gary Greenlee and Wayne

Long showed an exciting set of slides and photos taken on a horseback trip in the Rockies this summer.

Lunch was served by Mary Muhlbach, Helen Shinness and Elsie Tennant. Next meeting will be Thursday, November 20.

November 20 1986

Buffalo Lake Naturalists

(by Grace Neill)

Forty-two members attended the Nov. 20 meeting, including four new members, Margaret Sharpe, Margaret Simons, Chester and Florence Wilson. Visitors were

Frances Dodds, Elmer Gross and Carl Olson.

Art Weis, Marvin Lohr and Lloyd Greenlee were appointed nominating committee for the upcoming annual meeting January 15.

Reminder of the Christmas Bird Count, Sunday, Dec. 21, and the potluck supper and Christmas party following at 6 p.m. Bring a dish of your favorite food, and plates and cutlery. Cups, coffee and juice are supplied by the club. This year we will have a gift draw. Each one to bring a gift of up to \$3. value, marked for man or woman.

The second Bird Count in the Erskine area will be on Dec. 28. If anyone is interested in joining in other bird counts, the Red Deer count day is Sat., Dec. 27. Phone 346-2010 or 342-5400 for details. Bow Summit count is Jan. 4. The Lloyd Lohr family sometimes takes this one in. Phone 742-3846.

Calendars and cards were on display again for sale.

Lunch was served by Barb Smith, Bertha Smith and Hazel Peterson.

Twenty-one members and friends from the area joined in a bus tour to see spawning Salmon and Bald Eagles near Kalispell, Montana, from Nov. 12 to 16. There were two busloads, some 90 people in all, and it was an extremely enjoyable tour, conducted by Parsons' Holiday Tours. Though there were not as many Eagles as we expected, there were so many other highlights along the way it was considered a resounding success.

Visits to Kimberley, B.C., a beautiful Alpine town with entertainment by genuine Bavarian Yodellers, the Kootenay Fish Hatchery near Cranbrook, Art Galleries and Museums at Whitefish and Eureka, Montana, the city of Kalispell with its grand old mansions and more artwork, the Winter Wonderland around the Southern tip of Glacier National Park brought the tour out to the Indian Reserve town of Browning. There we visited the almost unbelievably perfect artistry of the Bronze work of Bob Scivers, and a Wildlife Museum.

A night at Lethbridge, a drive through Fort Macleod to view the old Sandstone buildings, a visit to Calgary's Olympic Centre and Fort Calgary, then on toward home. A truly memorable trip, with many thanks to John Parsons for making all the arrangements and for personally entertaining all along the way. Also a special thank you to the driver, Blaine Pullyblank, for taking us safely over sometimes icy roads.

December 21, 1986

Buffalo Lake Naturalists News

(by Grace Neill)

Sixty-five members and friends filled the hall to near capacity for the annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 21. There were visitors from as far away as Burnaby, B.C., and Halifax, as well as from Rimbey, Olds and Calgary, and several local friends.

The tables filled with a great variety of foods brought for the potluck supper made it hard to decide which to sample, and everyone had his fill. After supper everyone participated in a lively sing-song, accompanied by Margaret Simons and Art Johnson with their accordians and Lloyd Lohr on his guitar. Lloyd also sang a couple of songs, Jim Burrell and Bill Nesbitt recited poems and Vel Hainsworth delighted the audience with an animated version of "The Six White Boomers", as only a native Australian could do it. After the program there was an exchange of small gifts. It was altogether a very enjoyable evening, and some of the visitors wished we could do it again next week.

Earlier in the day, 34 people had taken part in the annual Christmas Bird Count in the Stettler circle. Going out in several directions from the centre of a 15-mile circle, they counted all the wild birds they saw. These counts are all compiled along with counts from other areas of Alberta to be recorded by Federation of Alberta Naturalists. The day's local count yielded a total of 1632 individuals of 18 species. This compares with last year's total of 1073 of 21 species, and in 1984, on a very cold day only 559 of 21 species.

On Sunday, December 28, in the Erskine-Red Deer River circle eighteen people counted 850 individuals of 18 species, then met at Marvin and Bea Lohr's home to tally up their counts. Bea served coffee and goodies, and Vel Hainsworth showed some slides. Highlights of the two count days were sightings of six Snowy Owls and four Great Horned Owls (Alberta's Official Bird), eight

White-breasted Nuthatches, two Ruby-crowned Kinglets, two Northern Shrikes, two Pileated Woodpeckers and several Starlings. Both counts this year yielded very low numbers of Snow Buntings. This

and the sighting of Starlings no doubt a result of our lovely mild weather.

May I take this opportunity to wish my readers the best of everything in the New Year.