Buffalo Lake Nature Club

General Meeting

April 18,2019

Chris P called the meeting to order with 25 people present

Minutes of the last meeting were emailed out Charley moved the minutes be accepted as presented.

Treasures report

Simone received a scam email asking for funds to be transferred to another account. She did not fall for the deception and reported it to the RCMP.

(Additional information; please be aware of any fraudulent email or phone requests. Always call the person directly. If you are suspicious do not take any action right away, if someone is pressuring you to do something right away it is usually a scam.)

Bank balance of $2362.13

Nature Alberta

Claudia reported the need for Volunteers for a casino July 8-9 in Edmonton. Accommodations may be covered for volunteers. Please let Claudia know if you are interested.

The year 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of Nature Alberta (Buffalo lake Nature Club joined in 1973) Claudia asked if any one is interested in forming a committee to plan a party, such as an afternoon tea with a slide show for our Club.

Linda Howitt\_-Taylor President Nature Alberta

Reported on her trip to Ottawa when Nature groups from across Canada met with members of the Federal government to remind them of the importance of conservation, environment and habitats across Canada. They also asked the government to follow through on the targets they have made to protect these areas and populations.

She was happy to hear Kelsie Norton form Nature Alberta is interested in speaking with us about IBA.

CBC radio had a interesting program on citizen science and the e-Bird program and encouraged us all to take part. Lastly Linda encouraged us to submit stories, sightings or photos to the Nature Alberta magazine or e newsletter. Sharing our club experiences with other clubs across Alberta.

Chris reminded us that members can receive the free e- magazine on line, watch for information on how to sign up.

We had the first owl count March 24 , Alex, Gabriel,( only stayed awake for about 5 stops, Karin, Claudia, Marie and Thomasina. Had several GHO and a couple NSWO. RCMP stopped us as we were reported as suspicious. We had signs and vests on but no one would stop to talk with us - too much criminal activity in the area.

Next owl count will happen before May 5. Marie in contact with County Counselors Cheri Neitz and James Nibourg The county might be able to help us next year if we send out a letter and or article of Buffalo Lake Nature Club in the Winter newsletter. I also delivered letters to Guy and Linda Walstrom, the Baltimores and Mrs. Tom Oshea as well as County Peace Officer Lee Hardman 403 741 6133 and RCMP to inform them of our next count

Thanks to Guest Speaker Tina McLean who spoke on the Alberta Lake Management Society Conference she attended and the volunteer role she had last summer with Lake Watch on Buffalo Lake.

Next meeting will be May 16, 2019

Those interested to bird watch are asked to meet at Shuckburgh Slough - West end of 44th Ave. Stettler (Township Rd 390) at 6pm

7 pm the general meeting will be at St George’s Anglican Church.

The guest speaker Michelle Gordy : Swimmers Itch in Alberta Lakes

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Roll call :

Marie 3 visiting Moose trimmed up all the Dog Wood and Saskatoon trees over the winter.

Charley Has been visiting Erskine Lake to do bird counts some of the species he has seen Greater Canada Geese, Mallard, Starling, Common Goldeneye, Wigeon, American Coot, Scaup

Anne 4 Collard Doves in the yard

(Wayne absent but sent in a report of 30 Tundra Swans in the Wetlands East of Bashaw)

Simone 4 mule Deer on the way in from Alix tonight Bittern, rabbits, Hawks,

Granddaughter Mallard

Granddaughter coyotes

Marc Bald Eagle swooped right in front of his vehicle luckily he saw it coming in. It was pulling grass from the ditch must be nest building

Tracy (Ducks Unlimited) has beavers, muskrats, Canada Geese on his property north of Round Hill Reports the numbers of Snow Shoe Hare up

There has been a cougar reported in his area but he has not seen it yet.

Tina- Calgary pileated woodpecker and killdeer

Katie Moose in her yard, juncos, wood and boreal chorus frogs large flock Sandhill Cranes and swans east of Mirror

Allison prolific patch of crocuses on a south facing hill at her place and enjoying the early morning song of the robins

John Nothing unusual

Brian 12 deer at Haunted Lakes Golf course tonight Last year had a family of 13 lined ground squirrel at the farm and happy to report they saw some last weekend.

Linda Went to question period while in Ottawa.

Noticing large raptors including Red Tailed Hawks

Alex Starlings, hawks, Snow geese flying over April 1 heard wood frogs 3 white tailed deer

Claudia Had the first mosquitos in the car. Butterflies: Milbert’s Tortoise Shell. Mourning Cloak

Ellis Bird Farm News

Last Sunday April 14 the first of the Purple Martins arrived

The owl cam is up again and happy to report 3 owlets hatched April 10, 12 and 15

May 20 Opening Day

Birthe Saw Red Winged Blackbird April 18 Frogs on the 9th Large moose on the point at Pelican Point

Thomasina brought in a sample of feathers

Wilma Sat May 3 United Church ladies pie sale

Bob S Entertained when watching a Moose cross the bar wire fence in a step ditch

Unusually dry for April

Bob R Still some ice on the Lake The Lake level is about the same as the level last fall so no real run off. Unfortunate that the wetland area in Rochon Sands will be converted back to a golf course in this dry year In Stettler there are a pair of Merlins setting up nest in his yard, neighbours have about 40 sparrows which will soon disappear along with other song birds

Jim Green Alix Enjoyed watching muskrats coming from the dens in the bank collecting grasses and roots while they sit on the ice. Also reported mosquitoes

Les Great Bend Monday Environment opened the floodgates

Seeing Pelicans, swans and Sandhill Cranes Report of large numbers flying over by Castor

Elaine Mule deer out on the ice on the lake watched to see if they made it off

Chris P North side of 601 by Pheasant Back an Owl nest

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Minutes and notes by marie payne