

ORILLIA NATURALISTS' CLUB MINUTES
Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020, 7:30 – 9:45
OMAH

1. Denis Paccagnella opened the meeting by acknowledging that “the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg, specifically the Ojibwe/Chippewa people. This is Williams Treaty territory.”
2. Welcome. Denis welcomed visitors of whom we had 13.
3. Sightings. Mentioned sightings were: Northern Hawk owl (Schomberg), Red-bellied woodpecker, Carolina wren, many species of gulls including Glaucous, Iceland, Greater Black-backed and Lesser Black-backed, 20 Tundra swans, 2 Mute swans, and Bald eagles on ice (Moon Point). Bob Bowles mentioned that he is keeping track of moose in Simcoe County, and asked if folk would report any sightings to him. Also Ron Reid mentioned that there is a citizen science project on the go called “5mr”, meaning 5 mile radius. It originated in the US, but there is a Canadian version (the territory is within an 8 km radius), the idea being that participants report all sightings within an 8 km radius of their homes over a month. (Google “5mr”). Here is a link to the Ontario Facebook Page for any who are interested – but you do have to join the group in order to see their posts: https://www.facebook.com/groups/5MRbirdinginontario/about/?hc_location=ufi
4. Approval of minutes of Nov. 6 meeting. Denis moved the approval of the minutes, seconded by Marilyn Clark, carried.
5. Business Arising. None
6. Website. A reminder to check the website for updates, program etc.
7. Correspondence. None.
8. News of passing of member. Ray Kiff, former President of the ONC, and very committed naturalist, passed away this month, and his Celebration of Life will be at St. Paul’s United on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 11:30.
9. Committee Reports.
 - a. Treasurers Report. Donald Macdonald reported that the club remains in good condition financially, and he expects the cash flow to carry the club until the next membership rollover. He mentioned that the Charitable Information Tax Return had been assessed as submitted. He thanked Hehn-Trickey for their work on this.
 - b. Ontario Nature. No report.
 - c. Programme. Marilyn reviewed the upcoming program, with an exchange of February and March programs, with David Hawke talking on Wildflowers of Simcoe County on Feb. 5, and Quiz night on Mar. 4. She also reminded the membership of an upcoming snowshoe/ski event at the Hermitage, Sat. Feb. 15, meet behind Zehr’s at 9 am, bring snacks, water and a pack lunch. Parking is limited at the Hermitage, so plan to carpool. Fern Splichal reported on the Christmas Bird Count, with overall reduced number of species (50) and individual sightings (fewer than 4,000). The weather may have contributed, but even the feeder counts were low.
 - d. Archives. Kevin asks that for submitted bird photos, he would appreciate if for the bird.
 - e. Conservation. Pat Woodford mentioned that she has written a letter to Premier Ford on behalf of the club, protesting the current move to extend the Rondeau PP cottage leases, in light of the number of endangered species at the park.

- f. Social. Warren is away, but Geordie and Tracey Ray have provided snacks for the night (thanks to them for that). The Rays couldn't be at the meeting, so Marcia Stephen and Pat Woodford helped put the snacks out and clean up after.
 - g. Publicity and Communications. No concerns from Tanya Clark or Nancy Ironside.
 - h. Membership – Heather reported that we have 107 members with 22 of those being new members. However, 26 members have not yet renewed and they are encouraged to do so.
10. The meeting adjourned for 15 minutes social time.
 11. The speaker of the evening, Rob Laidlaw, was introduced by Marilyn Clark, following which Rob provided a most interesting presentation with amazing photos and videos about bats. Following this, he was thanked by Adam Thompson.
 12. The meeting adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Strickland, Secretary, Orillia Naturalists' Club.