

Friends of the Bluebirds Spring Meeting
April 27, 2014
Riverbank Discovery Centre, Brandon

The spring meeting of the Friends of the Bluebirds was held at the Riverbank Discovery Centre in Brandon on Sunday, April 27th 2014 with 30 Bluebirders in attendance.

Chairman Herb Goulden called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and welcomed everyone. Herb acknowledged the efforts of Barry and Judy Danard over the years and presented them with a Landscapes book. Barb Pettinger, long time secretary, was acknowledged for her contributions and presented with Robert Taylor's Manitoba Landscapes book.

Herb also acknowledged the efforts of:

Ken Barclay, line manager, having taken over from Bob Andrews.

Luc Gamache looks after the reports

Ellen Blain tracks membership is constantly updating addresses.

Rob Shearer is web master and has received funding from Brandon University to GPS all our lines and will be calling to set up a time. Website is up and a work in progress.

Joan McTavish, treasurer.

Minutes from the October 20, 2013 meeting were read.

MOTION: MITCHELL/Lorelie/MacMillan, Phil – that the minutes be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

Treasurer's Report was given by Joan McTavish. Bank balance is \$1,055.70. Cheque for \$180.00 for website set up was received from The Bluebird Fund of Nature Manitoba.

Data Summary Sheet was distributed by Luc Gamache and results reviewed. Asked that we count tree swallows as well, keep track of eggs and check again at clean up time for fledges, mortality, unhatched eggs.

Membership - Ellen reported on membership. Five new members, 49 members are active with a total of 87 members on list.

Line Report – Ken Barclay. Thanked Rob for offering to GPS lines. If you have GPSed your line pass info onto Rob.

New Business

- Discussion on Nest Watch site, Cornell University monitoring info. Would take 5 times longer to gather information as well as added gas costs. Most monitors will not likely use Nest Watch.

- Forum on website; members thought it was a good idea. Could have reporting form, plans for boxes, pictures of nests of other species, ie. Chickadee, house sparrow, wren.
- NABS membership is \$15.00 year, will receive 4 copies of journal each year. A new book has been written for the public, Study of Eastern Bluebirds, a biological report and Reflections. Book is \$20.00, shipping \$20.00 - order from Colleen.
- Cornell University is asking people to watch for Rusty Blackbirds during migration and report sighting to website.
- Licenses, still collecting them. Murray Sangster reported that Home Hardware was also collecting them for us and that he had picked up 30 from them.
- Colleen reported on library, asked that members sign out books and bring back next meeting. Periodicals also can be borrowed and returned next meeting. List of available books could be on website.

Fall meeting – October 19th 2:00 pm

Open Forum

- Herb reminded everyone he has one year left as chair.
- March 28 was first sighting of bluebird this year.
- Suggestion made that we report to land owner successes.

Following the business meeting Linda Boys did a presentation on grebes and black terns. This was followed by refreshments and visiting.

Linda Boys
Secretary