

Monthly Flathead Audubon Society
January 2, 2007
Location: Jane Lopp & Associates Conference Room
295 3rd Avenue E. North
Kalispell, MT 59901

Attending: Bob Lopp, Chair; Gail Sullivan, Brent Mitchell, Bruce Tannehill, Paula Smith, Shirley Harrison, Lois Drobish, Dan Casey, Ansley Ford, Leslie Kehoe, and guest, Melissa Sladek, the coordinator at the Lone Pine Interpretative Center.

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

A motion was made and the December minutes were approved as modified.

Bruce discussed the monthly treasurer's report. We have received many generous donations this year and our investments are doing well. We still have approximately 23 unsold birdseed sacks to sell, which are probably in Condon. A motion was made to take share's out of Domini fund and out of operation funds and put into the conservation fund. Unanimously passed.

Melissa requested funds from FAS for an event to take place at Lone Pine this summer that may tie in with the donation for a Rod Ash memorial as a community event. She is also looking for volunteer help for the event from FAS. She is thinking of a Raptor community celebration. Bob will forward Melissa's request to the Rod Ash memorial committee for their consideration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Owen Sowerwine Committee. (OSNA) Brent discussed the upcoming fencing project at OSNA and the preparation work that has been done. It's about 2100 feet and would cost about \$4200 plus the cost of entrances and exits about \$4500.

Riata Ridge. Shirley discussed the information packets that she put together and dropped off information packets that she handed out as FAS input on the Rita Ridge. So far the feedback has been very positive and feels this project will set a precedent for storm water affects.

Christmas Bird Count. Both counts went well. About 35 people participated in each count. 76 species at the Bigfork count, which was down but more individual birds. 74 species at Kalispell and is the highest count yet. Bird count information will be in the next newsletter.

Programs. March program will be Jan Wassink. The February program was proposed to be "Yukon to Yellowstone" and there would be a \$250 cost to FAS for the speaker. A motion was made to approve the \$250 and the motion was not passed. It was felt this would be a bad precedent and this speaker was already in the valley in October for a fund

raiser. It was suggested that maybe Marcy could give a similar Yukon to Yellowstone program. It is unsure what the February program will be.

Education. Ravenwood has requested scholarship funds from FAS for 2 scholarships for a total of \$125. Ansley moved that we donate the \$125 scholarship money for the Ravenwood program, Mountain Mentors. Dan seconded and the motion was unanimously passed. Ansley is asking for volunteer speakers from FAS for Beauty of Birds adult education course. April 11, 18 and 25 and 1st Wednesday of May.

Field Trips. There is a field trip coming up on January 13 and one on February 18, Mission Valley.

Conservation Award. Shirley discussed the research that she has done on the F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company, their timber practices and how their practices affect watersheds. A motion was made that Shirley publish her information article on Stoltze in the Pileated newsletter. At the February meeting it can be voted on whether F.H. Stoltze practices should be nominated for our conservation award.

Publicity. Paula has gotten the publicity out on Lewis' January program. Publicity is ready to go out on the February field trip.

Newsletter. List of proposals: the bird of the month, board member column by Leslie, Bob-the President's Column, Brent-fencing at OSNA, the Flathead Basin stewardship award given to Shirley Harrison, Bird Count results, Conservation award for Habitat for Humanity's resale store (this is questionable since Bob Lee is gone), Looking back, Montana legislative alerts, recycling reminders by Kaye, request for FAS officer nominations,

Linda Winnie has ordered a cake for the January general meeting for the FAS's 30th anniversary, for which, of course, she would like to be reimbursed. Bob Lopp handed out a list of March 1977 members and encourages anyone that can to encourage and/or give a ride to any of people that they know so that they could also attend the January general meeting anniversary kick off.

Hospitality. Lois said that volunteers are signing up to bring refreshments for coming meetings.

Sales. The Audubon birds will be available for sale at the next meeting and maybe some Mexican items from Linda deKort's trip.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan

