

Flathead Audubon Monthly Meeting  
January 3, 2011

Location: Jane Lopp & Associates, 295 Third Ave., E.N., Kalispell, MT 59901

Present: Bob Lee, Chairman; Gail Sullivan, Jill and Mike Fanning, Lewis Young, Kathy Ross, Paula Smith, Dennis Hester, Lois Drobish, Steve Gniadek, Richard Kuhl, Bruce Tannehill, Linda deKort, and Melissa Sledak Guest: Dan Casey

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

The minutes from the December 6, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

Bruce discussed the Treasurer's Report that he handed out. Our paid membership is down from last year but memberships are still coming in.

## COMMITTEES

### Education

The Education Committee is brainstorming candidates to replace Nancy Z, as of the end of January. This is a temporary replacement to work through June. At that time, there will be a job description and a longer application period to fill the permanent position. The Education Committee is trying to get the word out and they are accepting applications until January 14<sup>th</sup> for the temporary replacement. The Executive and Education Committees will look over the applications and then some board members will go over the information with Lex. Nancy will receive an appreciation gift from FAS and a certificate. Motion (Linda/Melissa) The Executive Committee and additional educators on the board be responsible for hiring an interim Education Coordinator by January 21<sup>st</sup>. The motion was unanimously passed.

Melissa has to cut down on her board participation because she has a baby due July 4. Congrats!

### Christmas Bird Count

The Kalispell Christmas count had 68 species and a Hawk Owl was included in the count. There was record number of Merlins, Prairie Falcons, Evening Grosbeaks, etc.

### Fundraising

A committee meeting was held. They discussed writing a sponsorship letter. In addition to this letter, it was suggested that FAS sponsor another Birdathon. The goal of the fundraising is to raise \$4100 to make up the difference that FAS owes for our share of the Education program for this year. It was suggested that other conservation groups be asked to share in the program expenses. Steve said that he has been working with the Conservation Roundtable participants toward this goal. Long-term funding is the goal.

Bruce's fundraising suggestions: Birdathon, business sponsorship or general appeal letter. The appeal letter will be written and next board meeting we will discuss the Birdathon proposal.

### Program

The February general meeting is on Valentine's Day this year. The February program is not finalized yet.

### Conservation

Steve will let participants know at the next Conservation Roundtable meeting that we are recruiting for an Education Coordinator. He will also try to determine a common goal that all the groups have together.

Lewis looked at the information about the proposed DNRC timber sale near Spencer Lake and decided that it wasn't any worse than usual and would not send a comment letter. The proposal did list the loon chicks that have been noted the last couple of years.

### Website

Jan Wassnick will now be the website coordinator. Paula will be gone for a month and Gail will be the backup for publicity while she is gone.

### Newsletter

Program, BOM, information for Freezeout trip, Christmas Bird Count reports, Beauty of Birds article, Science Tidbit, Great Backyard Bird Count, how to sign up for legislative alerts, information on Audubon Bird Festival.

### Bird Festival for 2012

The Fannings are looking into the accommodations at the Grouse Mountain in Whitefish as a possibility. Montana Audubon said that it was okay with changing the date from the first week in June to the second week of June because of conflicts with a soccer tournament. Mike Fanning will also be on the festival planning committee.

Year-end review from Montana Audubon. There has been a big turnover in the Montana Audubon staff.

Next meeting it will be decided where the May potluck will be held. There will also be selection of officers during the May meeting. Linda deKort will work on the Election Committee. Let her know if you have any suggestions for nominations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan  
Secretary