

WEMINUCHE AUDUBON SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting
January 6, 2025

- I. **Call to Order** - Board President Jean Zirnhelt called to order the regular meeting of the Weminuche Audubon Society Board of Directors @ 4:05 p.m.
- II. **In Attendance** - In Person: Jean Zirnhelt, Keith Bruno, Bob Endres, Diane Cirksena, Becky Herman. Via Zoom: Anne Stevens. Absent - Herb Grover
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the December 2, 2024 meeting were accepted.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Anne Stevens presented the December 2024 Treasurer's Report. Income \$370.00 (membership dues, donation). Expenses \$0.00. Balance \$60,714.62 (savings, checking, petty cash, membership supplies).
- V. **New Business** -
 - A. **National Audubon Society Annual Report Goals and Priorities**
 1. **Past Year Goals/Achievement Stats** -
 - a) *To pursue the development of an outdoor education facility/nature center* - A nature center has been discussed and there are some community projects seeking input on ideas, so WAS members have mentioned the desire that a nature center be included in the plans. We could use the model of the Sarasota Audubon and the purchase of the Celery Fields.
 - b) *To increase membership involvement in WAS programs and activities* - Many people from different Pagosa environmental groups attended the Jackson Mountain bird monitoring meeting. WAS had new members/volunteers at the Christmas Bird Count, the bird monitoring project and Four Mile Education program.
 - c) *To organize more club outings/trips to bird watching areas* - San Juan Outdoor Club/WAS bird walk at Capote Lake was held. More guided bird walks offered at Chimney Rock.
 2. **New Goals (will be refined at the next meeting)**
 - a) *To organize two new outings to specific bird hotspots such as Bosque del Apache, Cumbres Pass, John Martin Reservoir.*
 - b) *To organize a meeting for less-mobile members who might be interested in accessible birding activities, like mindful birding activities.* Maybe coordinate with the Senior Center. Birdability works to ensure the birding community and the outdoors are welcoming, inclusive, safe and accessible for everybody.
 - c) *Publicize/Promote our role of being citizen scientists.* Bob mentioned doing insect analysis at dipper sights. (Patty Spindler, a

local biologist might be a good resource). Bob mentioned that he toured the Rocky Mountain Biological Labs insect collections in Gothic, CO (Crested Butte), which might serve as a model. Develop protocols/focus for local citizen science. Revisit the idea of hosting a Bioblitz?

d) *To increase younger involvement, organize one family/youth oriented birding activity.* Bob mentioned trying to attract younger families (family bird walks?) - At Earth Day or through the Library?

3. **Bev Compton request for ARU use** - She wants to use one to record willow flycatcher calls at Bull Creek (HD mountains). WAS has four. Three might be used for the bird monitoring sites, but WAS needs to budget for the analysis of data. Bob suggested prioritizing learning how to do the analysis. The board agreed to loan Bev one unit for a period of time and with the agreement that she would need to pay for the data analysis.
4. **Camp Colorado Substitute** - Jean sent out an email through the Chapter Network asking about substitute camp ideas. Two responses she received mentioned that the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies has a good camp. Two camps, one for ages 15-17 (\$1400 for one week in June) and one for ages 12-14 (\$950 for five nights). Both located outside RMNP. Jean will contact Joan Ward to ask about sponsorship again and then get details about when can register.

VI. Old Business

- A. **PARC** - Jean mentioned an Audubon Magazine article about effects of trail building on bird habitat that was worth reading and keeping in mind as our members participate in PARC discussions.
- B. **Christmas Bird Count Event evaluation** - The data collection potluck went well. Next year the CBC will be on Dec. 20. Jean, Pat and Keith are compiling data and will submit it to National Audubon and write an article for Pagosa Sun. Byron Greco said the Mr. Bass (Bass property) was pleased a group birded out there. Byron will give him a bird list from the count. Jean also mentioned that Dan Park is interested in initiating a new zone in the Arboles area for next year's CBC.
- C. **Chapter Meeting Programs** -
 1. January - Charlie Tyrell - Ecuador birds
 2. February - Darryl Saffer on Limpkins and Herb Grover on cranes
 3. March - Amy Dolan - Mountain States Bumblebee Atlas

VII. **Adjournment** - 5:55 p.m. Next meeting February 3, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. @ the Methodist Church.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Tedder