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## Piping Plover Lovers

This summer Au Sable Valley Audubon members have been kept very busy monitoring three families of piping plovers at the Au Sable River Shoreline Park and Tawas Point State Park. So far, as of August first, five chicks have fledged. Four more are due to fledge and head south by the ninth.

This is the second consecutive year the endangered Piping Plover has nested on the shores of Lake Huron and ours were the only known sites on the Michigan side of Lake Huron.

The Great Lakes population was listed as endangered in 1986. Since then, due to careful conservation practices, public education efforts, and support from private land owners, the species is making a comeback. There is still a long way to go but we're on our way.

Peggy Ridgway organized the monitoring schedule to spread the responsibility throughout the membership so everyone would get a chance to participate. Shoreline was easy because it entailed a short walk. The Point was more difficult because plover monitors had to walk  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to get to the nest location.

Those who took a turn or two were: Mary Ann Wojahn, Mary and Willy Weber, Carole Cooper, Carl Racchini, Sue Duncan, Larry VanWagoner, Arno Poerner, Peggy Ridgway, Matt Hegwood, Lynn Bitterman and Ed Cole.

Many thanks also to AVA members Roger Eriksson, Arno Poerner, and Lynn Bitterman who captured some great plover images on film.

## Other Piping Plovers

Our October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature guest speaker Vince Cavaliere from USFWS who, as the Great Lakes Piping Plover Coordinator, has visited our Shoreline Park and Tawas Point plover nest sites many times during this season and has lots of stories to tell about other Great Lakes piping plover populations. Note the special time is 11.30 a.m. for this meeting at Wiltse's. It is to accommodate the speaker and Alpena visitors.

*Ninja Plover, photo courtesy of Arno Poerner*



## Coming Up in August

This month we have scheduled a field trip to a new area for many of us, Little Loon Lake. On your map it may be called Mud Lake. There is a nice trail and boardwalk out over a pond with some interesting flowers and sometimes unusual birds. Bob will notify us when it is decided the weather will be favorable one day of the week of August 13 through 17.

# Fortieth Anniversary

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Jean Howard, Chair of the AVA 40th Anniversary Committee, reports that the committee has been working on plans for the anniversary dinner for several months and that the program is in the final stages. The dinner will be on October 13, at Wiltse's in Oscoda. Socializing will start at 5:30 with dinner at 6. There will be speakers, entertainment and a silent auction.

# September Meeting

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Pay attention! The Board is challenging us by starting out the new season a little differently to see if we are young enough to adapt. The meeting will not be at one of the high schools. Instead, it will be at Sprinkler Lake and will start at 4:00. Don Krejcarek, a retired forester will be talking to us about trees. He will be leading us around the grounds and filling us with interesting facts about trees and shrubs.



*August Moon with Bald Eagle, Courtesy Matt Hegwood*

# Canoe Marathon Award

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One of our members, Ed Wojahn, was recently inducted into the Au Sable River Canoe Marathon Hall of Fame. Ed paddled in five races from 1958, never finishing lower than fourth, and winning outright in 1960. He has supported the races every year since and has even been a sponsor. Congratulations are in order next time you see Ed.

# Osprey Successful

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At Tuttle Marsh this year two pairs of osprey fledged five offspring; two on the platform at the Oscoda end have been airborne for a week and three at the Tawas end have been flexing their wings and probably will have fledged by the time you read this. Ospreys and bald eagles apparently can share the same wetland.