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May/June, 2012

Super Festival

The seventh annual Tawas Point Birding Festival was arguably the best yet. The weather was perfect, the birds were there, the birders came, the tour leaders connected the two. Two-hundred-sixty-five people from seventeen states and five countries attended the five day event. The three surprise bird visitors were the red knot, and the cerulean warbler at Tawas point and the hooded warbler at Charity Island.

Jon Dunn, the featured speaker at the Tawas Yacht Club Thursday, spotted a female cerulean warbler at the Point and, although he and his tour group were not participants, wanted to make sure it is included in the count. Larr Van Wagoner is still working on the final species count.

Migration Count

On Saturday, May 12 twenty-seven observers in seven townships of Iosco County counted 179 species of birds that were either moving through the area or settling in to begin the breeding process. Roger Eriksson recruited the counters, compiled the results and submitted a report to the Michigan Division of the North American Migration Count Organization.

New Officers

At our May meeting at Sprinkler Lake we elected two new directors. Our president, Ruth Golm, will be joined by Donette Spiekerman and Jen Gravlin. Donette will assume the duties of treasurer and Jen, those of secretary. Larry Van Wagoner, who has been our secretary, will assume the duties of vice-president. We thank you all for your willingness to guide our busy organization.

TBA Visit

Six members of Thunder Bay Audubon journeyed down to visit two of our special birding sites: Clark's Marsh and Tuttle Marsh. They have more osprey nesting in their area than we do so they didn't ou and ah over ours but they were impressed with our soras, bitterns, moorhens and rails.

Next Big Event

On October 13, 2012 we will be celebrating the fortieth anniversary of our organization, formerly called Iosco County Audubon Society and more recently, Au Sable Valley Audubon. The event will take place at Wiltse's Restaurant starting with cocktails at 5:30 and dinner at 6:00. The cost will be \$20.00 per person.

The group in charge of this event: Ruth Golm, Jean Howard, Emily Kemnitz and Jen Gravlin, have already put together a display at the Tawas Beach Resort lobby during the Festival and a scrap book covering the history of its existence.

There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and not leave a landscape as it was before.

Robert Lynd

Winter Wren photo courtesy of Matt Hegwood

