

AU SABLE VALLEY AUDUBON MEETING, APRIL 9, 2024

OSCODA SENIOR CENTER, 653 STATE ST., OSCODA MI

President Bill Roth called the meeting to order at 3:12 pm, welcoming members and guests, Pat and Bob Oats.

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Sand Hill Cranes, (over 500 at Sage Lk. Rd.) Osprey have arrived (6 out of 7 nests in the Arenac, Ogemaw area), Eastern Bluebirds, Red headed Woodpeckers, Eastern Phoebe, Northern Flickers, Merlin, Tree Swallows, Turkey Vultures, Song Sparrows, Wild Turkeys, Swans and many Pine Siskin.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Current balance \$5,338.24 includes \$200.00 donation from Jackson Audubon. Ruth Golm moved to accept the treasurer's report and Kathleen Swindlehurst seconded it. Report approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: John Gontarek moved to approve the report as read and Bob Wagner seconded. Report approved.

EM'S BIRDY BITS: Em talked about the Canada Goose – the one we love to hate.

Jack Miner, conservationist, also known as Wild Goose Jack, from Kingsville, Ontario, created a sanctuary, fed them on their spring and fall migration and banded them in the 1930's. She reminded us of their traits as very good parents, standing guard and teaching their young where to eat.

PRESENTATION: Lindsay Lights, project forester for ReLeaf, MI. Spoke about the benefits of trees and how ReLeaf can help with tree planting projects. ReLeaf, a statewide non profit, is also a sponsor of the big tree competition. More information at Bigtreehunt.com.

10 Minute Break

OLD BUSINESS:

The Harrisville bench was ordered at a cost of \$1,469.00 and will be delivered on April 15, 2024.

Peggy Ridgway updated us on the progress and work accomplished for the birding trail in Harrisville. Four new areas have been added in the interior. The mayor is an avid birder and wants to be involved in promoting birding and trees.

Family Fun Fair is April 20 in Oscoda. Nancy Myers is heading up the event and already has volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Amy Kohlhepp, event planner for the Spring Birding Celebration on May 17 and 18, at Tawas Point; reminded the volunteers who took flyers to post them in businesses etc. She encouraged all AVA members to talk to the community and be an ambassador for this effort.

M-55 Highway pickup time frame is April 15-21st. Bill will plan it according to the weather. Watch for an e-mail.

Huron Pines is planning two events: A Birding Big Sit on Saturday, May 11, at N. Point Nature Preserve, Alpena, Michigan. Sign-up required online. A Spring Wildflower Walk on June 1, at Hull Island, Oscoda, Michigan.

Elections for Treasurer and Member at Large will be held at the May 7 Meeting. If you would like to be an officer, please contact President Bill Roth.

Kay Ruckle moved to adjourn at 5:35 pm and Kathleen Swindlehurst seconded.

Respectively submitted by Dawn Hooper.

Next Meeting, May 7, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 5625 US 23 N, Oscoda MI

5:00 pm for Potluck and business meeting afterward. Weather permitting, Bill Roth will lead a short birding outing at 4:00 pm.