AUSABLE VALLEY AUDUBON MEETING, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, OSCODA MI

At approximately 3:00 pm, the Au Sable Valley gathered for a monthly meeting. The Business meeting opened at 3:09 pm. President Bill Roth welcomed members and guests, Joan Luther from Flat Rock along with Melissa and Jim Heiner (Oscoda Piping Plover Monitors).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: This summer sightings included Belted Kingfisher, Red Headed Woodpecker, Trumpeter Swans (two pair with 8 and 6 signets that survived the year) and the pair including 7K at Tuttle that only ended the year with one signet; Tundra Swan (was in area all summer since May); Osprey.

Also mentioned was that we are at peak butterfly migration at Tawas Point (usually September 8, 9, and 10th).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dawn Hooper reported a balance of $7,172.82, noting that $1,000 is grant money to be used for feeder station at Tawas Point. The expendable balance is $6,172.82. We had 31 members present and did not have a quorum for the meeting (31/106). Everyone was reminded that dues are $15 for single and $20 for double membership. Dawn Hooper was collecting dues at the meeting. Kathy Swindlehurst moved to accept the report and Martha Withers seconded. Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes of the May 7th, 2024 meeting were read by Secretary Amy Kohlhepp. John Gontarek moved to accept minutes Mary Ann Wohan seconded. Motion carried.

EM'S BIRDY LESSON OF THE DAY: Emily taught us that ragweed is what gives us sniffles, not goldenrod.

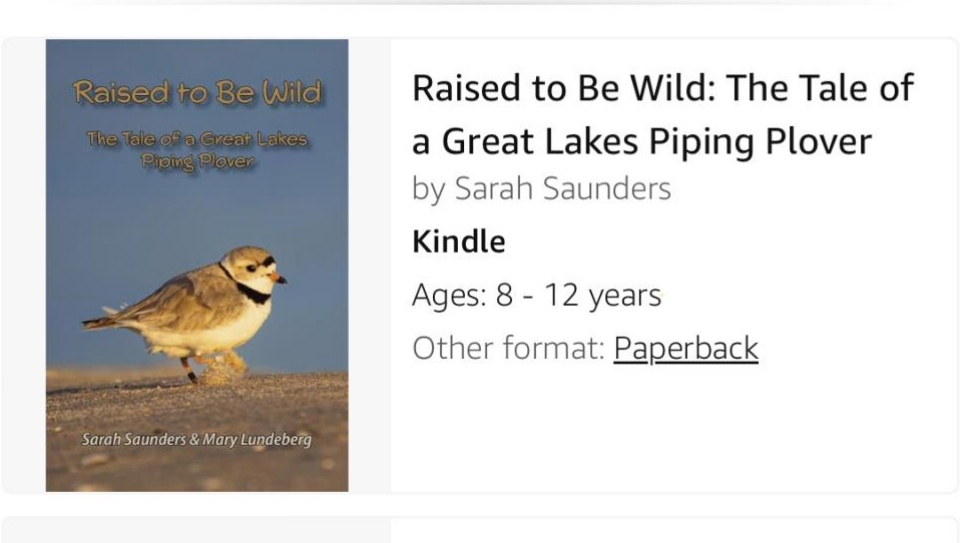
PIPING PLOVER PRESENTATIONS:
Peggy Ridgway offered information about the Piping Plovers:

- Oscoda Plovers were on private property, of the 86 nests in Michigan, only 8 (9%) were on private property.
- Third year in a row that the same plovers have returned to Oscoda (Eastside Bob is the male).
- Only one chick survived (out of 4) this year. Cause of loss is unknown.
- Great Lakes Population is 5 states and Canada (PN 1, MN 1, NY Fail, WI 2, IL 2, Canada 4, Michigan had 86 nests.
- Canada marks Piping Plovers on the left leg instead of right leg with metal bands.

Jim and Melissa Heiner shared their experience with Piping Plover monitoring. Jim mentioned that the best way for him to find the plovers is by looking above them in one location and watching for movement in peripheral vision. They both enjoyed being monitors and the comradery of the fellow monitors and people that lived near the location.

Nick Theisen from Huron Pines conducted a slide presentation on Piping Plovers with a focus on the Tawas Point, Notable Points:

- Volunteer monitors contributed over 200 hours in 2024. Thank you to Marge Peska, Nan Ulman, Mary Ann Wohan, Martha Withers, Madel Ernemann and Bill Roth.
- Michigan had 81 pairs with 86 nests (78 males and 78 females)
- Tawas Point Piping Plovers had two pair with seven successful fledges
- One of the fledglings was spotted in Canada and in South Carolina.
- One of the plover nests was too close to the water line and a storm could have destroyed the eggs, except our volunteers saved the nest and the plovers went back and successfully hatched the eggs (after being wet for about 3 hours).
- Plovers put their eggs together when emergency strikes.
- Huron Pines, AVA and Michigan Audubon put together a letter for the Natural Resources Commission requesting more resources to help keep the plovers safe at the point.
- Sara Saunders has a Book on Amazon called Raised to be Wild, it is about plovers. Amazon Link: https://a.co/d/gJyZTEE



Bill Roth thanked everyone related to the Piping Plover advocacy activities that took place this year. We all provided an ovation for these major efforts.

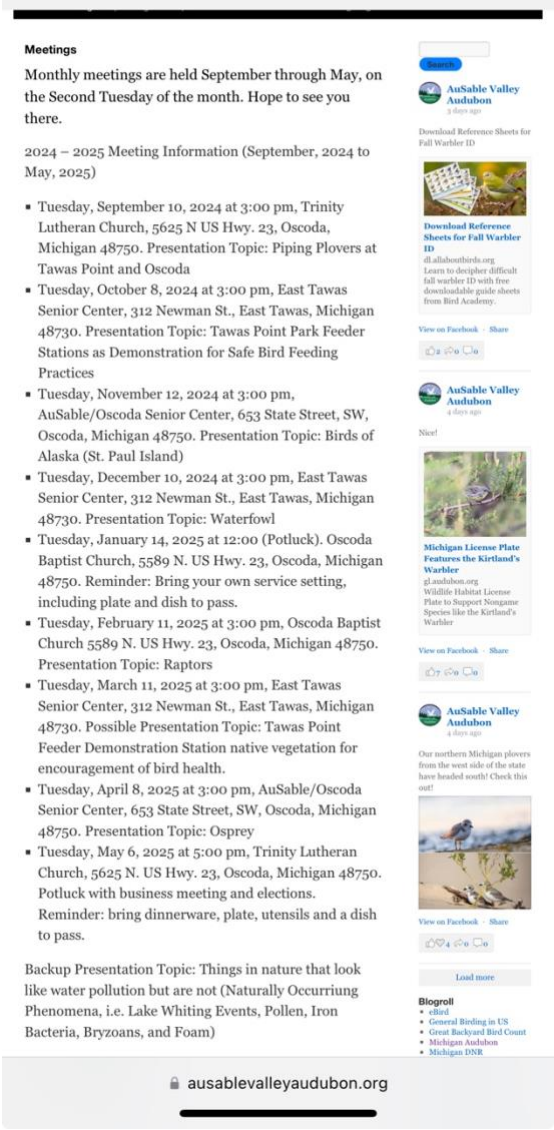
10 MINUTE BREAK (4:25)

OLD BUSINESS

TAWAS POINT BIRD MIGRATION CELEBRATION
The event was very positive, many volunteers showed up and helped. Donations from the event totalled $752.00. Bill Roth expressed a big thank you to all the volunteers.

WILDFLOWER WALK
A June Field Trip took place at Nancy Myers property. There were lots of great wildflowers to view at the walk. Bill Roth expressed a big thank you to Nancy for hosting the event.

AUGUST POTLUCK
The food, company and weather were great. Had a good turnout and the after event viewing the Chimeny Swifts was enjoyed by several. There were 175 swifts that entered the chimney and a dozen Common Nighthawks were observed too.



NEW BUSINESS

MEETING SCHEDULE
The meetings along with venue and expected presentations are on our webpage: https://ausablevalleyaudubon.org/?page_id=268

Action: Amy Kohlhepp will send link to meeting page to Chambers (Tawas and Oscoda). Status: Completed on September 11, 2024

TAWAS POINT BIRD FEEDING STATION
Bill Roth reported that Tawas Point has demolished the Tawas Point Feeding Bird Viewing Statoin. He reminded that we need leads for two subgroups:

- Bird feeder station design
- Bench building

Interested volunteers can stay after the meeting for further discussion and furtherance of our progress getting the updates complete.

FALL HIGHWAY PICKUP
Keep an eye on the e-mails from Bob Kemnitz regarding the days that we will be cleaning up the highway. We need six to eight volunteers. It is an enjoyable event where much plastic is cleaned up and it includes socioalizing and lunch.

KIRTLAND WARBLER CALENDAR

Maggie Berch showed the Kirtland Warbler calendar, which is available at the Mio and Oscoda Ranger Station (Forest Service Offices). It costs $10 and money is used for marketing related to Kirtland Warbler programs.

SPECIAL SPEAKER SERIES
Peggy reminded that the next presentation is by Sam Burkhardt on Sandhill Cranes (October 3, 2024). More information about AVA presentations can be found on our website: https://ausablevalleyaudubon.org/?page_id=2359

TREE PLANTINGS (2020)
Sue Duncan mentioned that there were 100 jack pines planted at Tawas Point State Park back in 2020. She was at the point and noticed that about 30 of them survived and are thriving. This is great news because that represents about 30 percent. Kudos to the team that did this!

MEETING ADJOURNED
Motion by Kay Nordin and seconded by Peggy Ridgeway. Motion carried.

AFTER MEETING:
Subcommittees held meetings. The Feeder Station Bench team is being led by Larry VanWagoner and the Feeding Station Team is being led by Pam Carter.