AUSABLE VALLEY AUDUBON (AVA) MEETING
February 11, 2025
Oscoda Baptist Church, Oscoda MI 48750
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:
Board Members Present:
Bill Roth, President
Dawn Hooper, Treasurer
Amy Kohlhepp, Secretary
Nancy Myers, Member at Large

Absent:
Kathy Swindlehurst, VP

Sign-up sheet was presented to members at Welcome Table, a quorum was present. Thirty-seven people attended.

Guests Present:
Susan Elliot, Bob and Racheal Haveland, Christy Roman

MOTIONS:
Motions Made, Results of Voting, Agreed upon Actions
- Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- Acceptance of December Meeting Minutes

REPORTS:
Treasurer's Report:
Treasurer's Report provided by Dawn Hooper. The Chapter has $4,963.00 reconciled.

Dues go to Dawn Hooper at 2414 N. US Hwy 23, Oscoda 48750.

Motion made to accept report, seconded and passed.

Minutes Report:
Minutes from the December 10, 2024 meeting were read by Amy Kohlhepp.

Motion made to accept report, seconded and passed.

MEETING SUMMARY/DISCUSSION

At approximately 3:04 pm, the Au Sable Valley gathered for a monthly meeting. President Bill Roth welcomed members and guests. We had a large group, enough to establish a quorum.

BIRD SIGHTINGS:
Golden Eagle, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Robins, Great-Horned Owl, Sharp-Shinned Hawk, 5 Red-Headed Woodpeckers (at once at a feeder).

EM'S BIRD LESSON OF THE DAY: Take the time to look up Bird Cams. If you Google, you can goggle some gaggles. Noteworthy: Ontario Feeder Watch and Earth Cam Falcon from Warren Michigan.

PRESENTATION:
Raptors by Sam Burckhardt. An overview of the Birds of Prey by organizational structure, included audio. Very educational. Left the audience wanting a presentation regarding owls.

10 MINUTE BREAK

OLD BUSINESS

MEMBERSHIP
AVA yearly membership was due by January 1, 2025. Those who haven't paid were taken off list.

NEW BUSINESS

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC)
Peggy Ridgeway provided an overview and encouragement of participation for the GBBC. It is a four-day event February 14th to the 17th. Information: Birdcount.org

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC)
Larry VanWagoner provided a wrap up of the Christmas Bird Count

Tawas Circle had 40 species and roughly 3,000 individuals counted. Most unique were Gadwall and most abundant were redhead ducks. Notable abundant species were wild turkeys at 168 counted.

Oscoda Circle had 42 species with roughly 1,600 individuals. Most unique was the Yellow Throated Warbler and most abundant were Rock Pigeons.

Larry gave awards to participants that guessed number of species and most abundant. Thank you Larry, our birds appreciate you.

HONORARY PRESENTATION
Peggy Ridgeway was honored for 50 years of counting in CBC and 28 years at GBBC.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER CALENDAR
Maggie Berch presented about Mio Forest Service sponsoring a picture competition for kids that submit their artwork of Kirtland Warblers. Winning photos go into the calendar for each year.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER AS STATE BIRD (PETITION)
Sam Burckhardt informed that the Kirtland's Warbler's Alliance is petitioning the State Legislature to make the Kirtland's Warbler the state bird. You can go to the page to see how to participate. https://www.kirtlandswarbler.org/ You can probably contact your local legislative members (State Senator and Representative).

PERCHVILLE
Bill Roth and Maggie Berch represented AuSable Valley Audubon at a booth for Perchville in Tawas (Februrary 7th through 9th). They handed out lots of information and had a game for kids. Another very successful event with lots of new people learning birding. https://tawas.com/perchville-2025/

TAWAS POINT BIRDING FEST
Cancelled due to construction at the park. Notifications have been sent to both Chambers, Michigan Audubon, Cornell University, Jackson Audubon, Facebook, our webpage and multiple other organizations. If members know of other places to notify, please do so. Refer follow-up questions such as potential entry and opening dates to the park. FYI -- As of now, the park plans to open on June 1st pending completion of paving.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 3:00 pm, East Tawas Senior Center, 312 Newman St., East Tawas, Michigan 48730. Presentation by Pam Carter regarding Bird City and Tawas Point Feeder Demonstration Station native vegetation for encouragement of bird health.

OTHER EVENTS:

TAWAS COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND: Will be playing on St. Patrick's Day, March 17 at 7:00 in the Tawas High School Gym. AVA members, Sam Burckhardt and Amy Kohlhepp play for the band. Noteworthy is that Sam is a professional musician and he has a solo at this performance. Very worth the time if you can make it.

FAMILY FUN FARE:
April 12, 2025 is the Family Fun Fare in Oscoda. If you want to participate at the booth please contact Nancy Myers at 724-889-6576.

Meeting Adjourned by motion.