

**AuSable Valley Audubon  
April 9, 2025  
Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

**Board Members Present:**

Bill Roth, President

Dawn Hooper, Treasurer

Nancy Myers, Member at Large

**Absent**

Amy Kohlhepp, Secretary

Kathy Swindlehurst, Vice President

A signup Sheet was presented at the Welcome Table, a quorum was present, 28 members attended.

**Guests:**

Nick Theisen, Huron Pines

Bryant Eddy, Huron Pines

**Reports:**

**Treasurers Report**

The treasurer's report was provided by Dawn Hooper

The chapter had \$5978 on April 9, 2025. This included a \$1000 donation from Peggy Ridgway towards the Bird City Initiative.

A motion was made to accept the report by Sarah Humphries and seconded by Larry Mason.

**Minutes Report**

The minutes from March 11, 2025, were read by Pam Carter.

A motion was made to accept the report by Robert Wagner and seconded by MaryAnn Wojan

**Meeting Summary and Discussion**

At approximately 3:05 pm, the AuSable Valley gathered for a monthly meeting

**Bird Sightings:**

Fox Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Greater Yellow Legs, Lesser Yellow Legs, Rusty Blackbird, Great Egret, Ruddy Duck, American Kestrel, Common Loon, Wood Duck, Eastern Phoebe, Horned Grebe, Dark Eyed Juncos, Tree Sparrows

**Em's Bird Lesson of the Day:**

Consider safer herbicides as we ready to garden. Ones that are more bird friendly.

Remember that killing insects could also poison the birds. Other options:

- Tie a red ribbon by plants that have aphids to attract hummingbirds.
- Pour hot water on anthills that are in the wrong place but remember that ants are our friends.
- Try vinegar
- Don't kill the spiders

Please share this information with someone who may not know.

#### Presentation: Ospreys

Bill Roth shared many facts about Ospreys and his experiences monitoring Osprey nests for the DNR for 3 years.

MaryAnn Wojan confirmed that the Ospreys that nest in the cell tower at M55 and Willbur in Tawas returned on April 6.

#### Old Business:

Tawas State Park was to be closed on March 24. This has been delayed and will probably delay the reopening of the park. Micah will allow people into the feeders and to help with the Piping Plover monitoring.

The AVA website has listed alternate sites to visit for migration season.

The Sunrise Side Master Gardner plant sale will be on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to noon at the state dock in East Tawas.

Nick Theisen invited members to the Piping Plover monitoring training on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12 – 4 starting at the East Tawas Community Center and ending at Tawas State Park. Register for the event can be found at [HuronPines.org](http://HuronPines.org) under events.

He also invited the group to attend the “Big Sit” at North Point Preserve on May 10. Register is on their website.

The feeding station at Tawas State Park is now complete with the feeders installed. Thank you to Bob Kemnitz and Larry VanWagoner

It was noted that many American Kestrels have been spotted, and thanks were given to Larry VanWagoner for his attending to the nesting boxes.

#### New Business:

Bird City Michigan update: A motion was passed to move forward with the intent to apply for Iosco County by Peggy Ridgway and seconded by MaryAnn Wojan.

A motion was made by Pam Carter and seconded by Sue Duncan for the AVA to pay the renewal fees for the next 5 years, ending in 2030.

MDOT Highway Pickup on M55 will be on April 15 with an alternate day on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Please let Bill know if you can attend. Plan for a couple of hours in the morning and then lunch.

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge field trip to be planned for June. It is an approximately 6-mile auto tour on their dike system, with the potential of seeing 70 species of birds.

Potential field trip to Harrisville State Park in late May also. More information to come.

The next AVA meeting will be held on May 13<sup>th</sup>, location is the Oscoda Baptist Church, 5589 N. Huron Rd. Oscoda at 5pm this is a potluck with a brief meeting as there is no festival this month. There will be a walk at River Park at 3:30 pm and plan to eat between 4:30 and 5 pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Robert Wagner and seconded by Larry Mason.