

AUSABLE VALLEY AUDUBON (AVA) MEETING

October 14, 2025

Tawas Senior Center

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Board Members Present:

Bill Roth, President

Pam Carter, Vice President

Dawn Hooper, Treasurer

Amy Kohlhepp, Secretary

Absent: Jill Laidlaw, Member at Large

Sign-up sheet was presented to members at Welcome Table; a quorum was present.

Guests Present: Shelley Goodlaski

MEETING SUMMARY/DISCUSSION

At 3:01 pm, the Au Sable Valley Audubon gathered for a monthly meeting.

BIRD SIGHTINGS:

Warblers: Palm, Chestnut-sided, Black-Throated Green, Yellow-Rump, Orange Crowned; Sparrows: White-throated, White Crowned, Fox; Kinglets, Winter Wren, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Goose, Red-Winged Blackbird, Eastern Bluebird, Swans, Brown Creeper, Red-Breasted Nuthatch (more than usual), Black-Capped Chickadee, Blue Jays, Tufted Titmouse, Mourning Doves, Rock Pigeons, Common Grackles, usual woodpeckers.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report provided by Dawn Hooper.

The Chapter has \$6,168.34; most recent payment was \$20 to LARA for 501c3 status. Motion was made to accept report seconded and passed unanimously.

Minutes Report:

Minutes from the September 9, 2025, meeting were read by Amy Kohlhepp. Motion was made to accept report, seconded and passed unanimously.

EM'S BIRD LESSON OF THE DAY: Reading is good. You can learn much from old books. Recommended Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Huron Pines all read the book together and had a fun time with group discussion.

Presentation:

Birds of Southeastern Texas by Amy Kohlhepp

Old Business:

- AVA dues can be paid through the website ausablevalleyaudubon.org or to Dawn Hooper. \$15 for single, \$20 for family and the new payment method online is working very well. We are even receiving extra money in donations through it. Jill Laidlaw took the lead in getting it going – we are very thankful.
- AVA hard copy calendars are available, also thanks to Jill.
- Peggy Ridgeway presented Birding Class 101 at Oscoda Library on September 25th and is giving a presentation on Trumpeters at Iosco Medical Center on October 17th, 2025.
- Amy Kohlhepp and Pam Carter attended the Michigan Audubon Leadership meeting. The information presented was about the different generations and what makes each move towards involvement with non-profits. They discussed how to try to get new volunteers with a focus on the younger generation. They recommended Chapters try to get an Instagram presence. They recommended finding a host that speaks to the Gen Z, with reels and stories that inspire them. For example, they really like emotionally based stories and station take overs.
- AVA's Fall Cleanup was October 9th. Volunteers collected 15 bags of trash and some tires. Plastics were the most common trash type. Some of the group went to eat at Sand Lake Bar for Lunch following.
- October 11th was World Migratory Bird Day, and our event went very well. Pam Carter organized. Pam gave an overview. The event consisted of two presentations: Nick Theisen from Huron Pines discussed Plovers and Pam had a presentation on Safe Practices in your yard. A group consisting of our members and another 5 non-members went on a birding walk at the point. Another group went to clean up the Riverbank Park later in the day. This group pulled Autumn Olive, Honey Suckle and Barberry.

New Business:

- Tawas Point State Park replaced all of AVA's old bench platforms with no cost to us. One member mentioned that the park received help from Michigan Cares Center, where other DNR employees donate time to help revitalize parks. We are thankful to those volunteers. Thank you DNR!
- Watch for notes from Bob Kemnitz about an upcoming Owl Calling Campfire and Sandhill Crane Counting.

Meeting Adjourned by motion.