

AUSABLE VALLEY AUDUBON (AVA) MEETING
December 12, 2025
Tawas Senior Center
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Board Members Present:

Bill Roth, President
Dawn Hooper, Treasurer
Amy Kohlhepp, Secretary
Jill Laidlaw, Member at Large

Absent:

Pam Carter, Vice President

Sign-up sheet was presented to members at Welcome Table; 34 members, and a quorum were present.

MEETING SUMMARY/DISCUSSION

Roads were bad so At 3:06 pm, the Au Sable Valley Audubon gathered for a monthly meeting.

BIRD SIGHTINGS:

Short-eared Owls, Redpolls, White Winged Scoter, American Tree Sparrows, Golden Eagle, Northern Shrike, Evening Grosbeak

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report provided by Dawn Hooper.

The Chapter has \$6,354, reconciled. \$934 in expenses paid for insurance. Motion was made to accept report, seconded and passed unanimously.

Minutes Report:

Minutes from the November 11th, 2025, meeting were read by Amy Kohlhepp. Discussion by Em to change the name of the Lesson of the day. We will now call it Jill's Lesson of the Day. Motion was made to accept report, seconded and passed unanimously.

JILL'S BIRD LESSON OF THE DAY:

A video and facts about snowy owls were presented. It was reminded that these owls need lots of space to feel comfortable to feed.

Presentation:

ARK (Association to Rescuer Kritters), Jared Webster-Wright

We met Mrs. Peeps, a Broad Winged Hawk and a Barred Owl named Zero. Both are education animals that can't be released back into the wild.

ARK got a new X-Ray Machine, which has been very helpful. They find lead 18" from bullet wounds in venison and had to discard contaminated meat because it is toxic to the wildlife that they are trying to feed. ARK is working with an association of wildlife rehabilitation facilities to highlight the deadly and costly impact of lead in our wildlife. This lead enters the environment through hunting (bullets) and fishing tackle.

ARK runs on donations. Anyone wanting to donate should strongly consider providing resources to this organization.

A donation from AVA to ARK was presented by Motion (\$300). It was first by Dawn Hooper and Seconded by Kathy Swindlehurst. Motion was passed.

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.

New Business:

- Annual Christmas Bird Count is coming up. Dates are Wednesday, December 17th for Tawas and Saturday, December 20th for Oscoda. If you want to sign up contact Amy Kohlhepp 517-489-7879. We especially need people for Oscoda.
- Tawas Point Bird Migration Festival is May 15 and 16th at the park. We need volunteers. The point will hopefully be full of education stations staffed by sponsoring organizations. We would like stations for Gulls/Terns, Warbler Identification, Piping Plovers, Native Plantings, Window Collisions, Kirtland's Warbler. Contact Amy Kohlhepp
Sarah Humpries will lead the Piping Plover Station.
- If we need to cancel a meeting due to weather keep in mind that it is cancelled if schools are cancelled. You can learn this through Carroll Broadcasting, 104.7
- Next get together is a Potluck. January 13th at Tawas Senior Center. It is at 2:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned by motion.