

AUSABLE VALLEY AUDUBON (AVA) MEETING
February 10, 2026
Oscoda 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; 41 people in attendance; there were 36 members so a quorum was present.

Guests:

Mary, Rick Stanley, Pam (a Member's sister), Peggy's Granddaughter (Charlotte) and Patty Cardinal

MEETING SUMMARY/DISCUSSION

Regular monthly meeting called to order at 3:02 pm.

BIRD SIGHTINGS:

Eagle, Turkey, Horned Larks, Pine Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Barred Owl, Redpoll, Red-breasted Mergansers

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report provided by Dawn Hooper.

Chapter paid \$520 for Bird City signs, they look great. A check was given from Jackson Audubon for \$200 for the migration festival; they nicely do this each year. Our reconciled total is \$5,322.47. Motion was made to accept report, seconded and passed unanimously.

Minutes Report:

Minutes from the December 9, 2025, meeting were read by Amy Kohlhepp. Motion was made to accept report with the modification of number of members attending, seconded and passed unanimously.

JILL'S BIRD LESSON OF THE DAY:

What is a spark bird? It is the bird that sparked your interest in birding. Several members shared their spark bird stories.

Presentation:

Sam Burckhardt presented about Owls

- Overview of Families of Owls
- Biology: especially focused on why they are great hunters
- Deeper dive into local owls

Sam's presentation included some of his photos, many excellent catches. The presentation was very informative and many of us learned much.

Old Business:

- January Potluck had 31 members, great food and company.
- AVA calendars are available in hardcopy on website and Facebook.
- Weather related cancellations can be heard on 104.7, we are cancelled when schools are closed in meeting area. You can call any board member if in question.
- Please consider using the new recycling centers: Tawas Bay Ice Arena, Oscoda Athletic Complex and Whittemore Chamber of Commerce.
- Bill Roth, Nancy Myers and Maggie Berch staffed the AVA booth at the Community Center for Perchville. They handed out many materials promoting birding in Iosco County.

New Business:

- Great Back Yard Bird Count is this weekend.
- Tawas Point Bird Migration Festival is May 15 and 16th at the park. We need volunteers. The Leads for various areas:
 - Dawn Hooper for Welcome Tent
 - Pam Carter for Pavilion Education Stations and Bird Trivia
 - Sarah Humphries for Piping Plovers
 - Nan Ulman for Native Plantings
 - Bill Roth and Amy Kohlhepp for Field Stations
- AVA Winter Education Series at Robert J. Parks Library in Oscoda; Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.
 - Jan 22nd was Lovely Loons by Pam Carter (18 attendees)
 - Feb 26th Birds of Alaska by Amy Kohlhepp
 - March 26th Meet the Ospreys by Bill Roth
- Wanting to put together an AVA membership directory, hard copy for members. Sign-up sheet giving permission was handed out at meeting. It's being

developed because some members would like the ability to contact other members.

- Now is a good time to see Raptors because there are no leaves and raptors are around. Ones in the area are Red-tailed Hawks, Rough-Legged Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, and Bald Eagles. The Red-shouldered and Sharp-shinned are sporadically being seen even though not common for this time of year.
- Tawas Point has a Lantern Walk on February 28th from 6-9 at the park.
- Next gathering is on March 10th at the Tawas Senior Center on Neuman Street. 3:00 pm and presentation is on Black Terns at Tawas Lake by Kylie McElrath.

Meeting Adjourned by motion.