

AUSABLE VALLEY AUDUBON MEETING

March 10, 2026
Tawas Senior Center
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Board Members Present:

Bill Roth, President
Pam Carter, Vice President
Jill Laidlaw, Member at Large

Absent:

Amy Kohlhepp, Secretary
Dawn Hooper, Treasurer

Sign up sheet was presented to members at Welcome Table. Two guests present from area to hear special speaker. New members Tess (Gary) Nelkie, welcomed. 41 attendees.

MEETING SUMMARY/DISCUSSION

At 3:05 pm the AuSable Valley Audubon gathered for a monthly meeting.

Bird Sightings: Sandhill Cranes, Red Winged Blackbirds, American Kestrels, Winter Wren, House Finch, Grackle, Sharp Shinned Hawk, Red Shouldered Hawk, American Robin, Trumpeter Swans, Rough Legged Hawk (Dark Morph), Golden Eagle, Kildeer, Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Snow Goose, Northern Pintail, White winged Scoter, Merlin, Eastern Bluebird

REPORTS:

Treasurers Report

Provided by Dawn, read by Bill Roth

Current Balance \$5091.51

Pending expenses: 105.00 for building use

End of day balance: \$4986.51

Secondary balance \$3456.51 (set aside donations for specific projects)

Motion was made to accept report, and seconded and passed unanimously.

Minutes Report:

Minutes were presented by Konnie Speneceley. Motion was made to accept report and seconded and passed unanimously.

Jill's Bird Lesson of the Day:

Delicate doves

Presentation:

Restoring Michigan's Black Tern Population, Kylie McElrath, conservation manager with Great Lakes Audubon.

Old Business:

The Great Backyard Bird Count was Feb 13-16. AVA had a nice write up in the local papers and also Peggy Ridgway was interviewed by WNEM News 5. Thanks Peggy.

AVA would like to put together a Membership Directory for our members. It would consist of the members' names, email address and phone number. If you would like to be on the list, please fill in the info on the sheet of paper that is being passed. You have the option of filling in an email address, phone number or both.

NEW BUSINESS

AVA Education Series at Robert J Parks Library in Oscoda. 4:30-5:30 pm. Dates are March 26, Meet the Ospreys by Bill Roth. April 23, Birds of Alaska by Amy Kohlhepp.

Spring Bird Migration Festival at Tawas Point in May. A sign-up sheet is being passed around if you wish to volunteer for the Welcome Tent. There have been commitments from several groups to attend stations during the festival and there is still room for outside groups to do this, Amy continues to reach out to Audubon chapters and individuals to do this.

This year there will be activities in the pavilion, a silent auction, bird trivia, education stations about window collisions, feeding birds safely, and native plantings. The Michigan Loon Preservation is considering setting up an education table as well. Iosco Conservation District will have plants for sale. More information about the silent auction at next month's meeting.

April is the month for MDOT Highway Pickup. I haven't received a packet from MDOT on the dates as of now.

Now is a good time to clean your bird houses and feeder areas. Rake around feeder areas to get rid of old seed and waste.

The next meeting is April 14, 3 pm at the Oscoda Senior Center. Oscoda. Questions?

An electronic form will be created for members who do not attend meetings regularly to share their addresses for the membership directory.

PLEASE RECYCLE Motion to adjourn made, seconded and carried.