*Thunder Bay Audubon Society thunderbayaudubonsociety.com*

*September 20, 2017 6:00 pm facebook.com/thunderbayaudubon*

The September 20th meeting was held at JJ’s Pizza and Steak House in Alpena. 13 members attended. Vice-President Lynn Field called the meeting to order at 6:10.

Members shared bird sightings. Connie Stafford-oven bird on deck. Had hit window, but flew away after a bit. Betsy Hale and Judy Kalmanek saw a Virginia rail by their condo. Jan and Jerry Charter saw a Northern Water thrush. Arnie saw a gray phase sandhill crane. Karen and Chuck Tetzlaff had stopped at the Capital City Bird Sanctuary in Lansing- recommended visiting if you have a chance. Bill Grigg and Lynn Field scouted ponds and marshes southwest of Rogers City and found 30 species- possible field trip next year. Lynn Field saw/heard several barn owls at Lake of the Clouds. Dana Howard reminded people to use e-bird if you are visiting a new area. This will give you an idea of what you might see.

Secretarial Report: Karen Tetzlaff had sent the minutes of the March 15th, 2017 to members via email. Judy Kalmanek moved the minutes be accepted as posted. Seconded by Arnie Pokorzynski. Unanimously approved.

Treasury Report: Steve Wagner reviewed report dated September 12th - see attached for details. He is concerned that the annual memberships are down. Next year, we will try to reach out to school groups, 4-H, Girl Scouts, etc. to try and get younger people interested in birding. At the bench dedication, $134 was collected to help repair air boat. Connie Stafford moved report be accepted. Betsy Hale seconded. Unanimously approved.

Old Business:

* Arnie gave an update on the osprey at Fletcher Pond. He has been working with Barb Jensen. They put transmitters on two birds. There are 11 platforms, 30 chicks hatched, only 9 or 10 survived. Wind and hard rainy weather were factors plus fish are harder to find. Discussion on how to help the fish situation. Judy Kalmanek will check with the DNR to see if we can plant bullheads at Fletcher Pond to support osprey. What would be involved and how much would it cost?

New Business:

* The Christmas Bird Count maps were supposed to be updated tonight, but since Linda was not here, it has been tabled to the October 23rd meeting.
* Discussion on details of Whitefish Point Birding Trip on October 4/5. At this time, there are 16 people going. Karen will email those folks the details as they are finalized.
* AuSable Valley Audubon has invited us to a program on October 10, 7:00 by Caleb Putnam on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
* Linda Klemens has stated she will not be able to be president next year. Discussion on how the officers may line up. Others will need take on supportive roles. Betsy Hale said she would do the Events Brochure, Arnie will be osprey/ Fletcher Pond and kestrel liaison.
* Karen Tetzlaff shared Birds of Island Park brochure that was worked on by Thunder Bay Audubon Society and not updated since 1993! Judy Kalmanek, Betsy Hale, and Karen will work on a new one this winter with assistance from other members.

Next meeting will be Monday, October 23, 12:00, at Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan Conference Room on corner of Ripley and Washington Streets in Alpena. A simple lunch will be shared. Agenda items include election of officers, planning for 2018, and review of the CBC maps.

Meeting was adjourn at 7:40.

Respectively Submitted,

Karen Tetzlaff, TBAS Secretary