Thunder Bay Audubon Society (TBAS)

Minutes November 14, 2023

Meeting held at The 19th Hole restaurant in Alpena

Members Present:

Jan Charter, Jerry Charter, Barb Cole, Lynn Field, Betsy Hale, Dana Howard, Judy Kalmanek, Brenda Kelley, Lorrie LaCross, Dave Melville, Arnie Pokorzynski, Deb Pokorzynski, Chuck Tetzlaff, and Karen Tetzlaff.

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Tetzlaff at 11:45 am.

Bird Sightings and Avian Tidbits:

Dave Melville saw both a Northern Cardinal and a Blue Jay photogenically sitting on his step ladder. Lynn Field has been seeing Goldfinches, House Finches, Mourning Doves, and one Fox Sparrow. Karen has been seeing Pine Siskins. Judy Kalmanek reported seeing 11 Trumpeter Swans, 1 Mute Swan, and a lot of ducks. Jan Charter described an outing with Jerry and the Tetzlaffs where they saw two Trumpeter Swans, two Sandhill Cranes, and four Bald Eagles (two adults and two juveniles) near Hagensville Marsh. Jan also described watching a Bald Eagle hunting on Grand Lake and a Spruce Grouse in her neighbor’s driveway.

Secretary’s Minutes from October 19, 2023, need to be amended to reflect that the motion for the slate of officers for 2024 was moved by Judy Kalmanek and seconded by Betsy Hale. The motion was approved unanimously.

Karen Tetzlaff, President

Lynn Field, Vice-President

Jan Charter, Secretary

Dana Howard, Treasurer

Officer and Committee Reports:

President’s Report:

New Bird Checklist: A new bird checklist is on hold until more information is gathered. Brenda Kelley asked whether a few certain birds on the checklist are ones we have seen in our area. Numerous memories were resurrected to affirm that, on rare occasions, these birds had been seen. Lynn Field will check with Mark and Erica Jones to see if they can glean more data from the American Ornithological Union.

Fletcher Pond: Headwaters Nature Conservancy remains interested in taking over Fletcher Pond. The land acquisition committee and full board will meet in December to see if they want to investigate further. Lorrie LaCross reported that Pete DeSimone will be sending Sergei’s notes to her, and that he is having Sergei’s videos digitized, with copies for us. Arnie gave a history of the Osprey population at Fletcher Pond. Of particular concern was how the population has declined since a weevil was introduced to eradicate Eurasian milfoil that was clogging up pontoon motors, which in turn reduced the fish population, which in turn reduced the Osprey population. Last season, there were only four nesting pairs.

Vice President’s Report: Nothing to report.

Treasurers’ Report:

Dana presented a list of transactions for 2023, showing that we have spent over $900 more than we took in, but our account balances show that we are still in good shape financially. He also presented a proposed budget for 2024 reflecting the donations approved at the last meeting. Two changes were made to the operational expenses he listed to increase the expense for the annual mailing and include funds for printing the new bird checklist. Dana will present a final budget to be voted on at our January 2024 meeting.

Unfinished Business:

New shirts: Betsy will soon be giving us style options for new TBAS apparel.

Adopt-a-Highway: Dana described an area on Misery Bar Road that we could adopt for clean up as part of the Adopt-a-Highway program. He has obtained the official rules and the application form. Lorrie LaCross moved that TBAS participate in this program, Lynn Field seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Christmas tree: Decoration of the tree at the Besser Museum has been completed, but Barb reported that we may not be able to decorate one next year if we don’t supply our own tree. The Pokorzynskis volunteered a tree they no longer want, which Barb will take a look at.

Event Committee: A list of proposed events for 2024 was presented, and a member contact was established for each event. More details to be worked out.

New Business:

Karen reported that the Alpena Public Library has a new project to provide kits for families to learn about various subjects and wants to know if we want to provide one focused on birdwatching. Dana will look further into this.

Karen passed around a sign-up sheet for the Christmas Bird Count at Hubbard Lake on December 14 and Alpena on December 16.

The next meeting will be held on January 25, 2024, at 11:30 am, tentatively at The 19th Hole.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Charter

Secretary

November 17, 2023