*Thunder Bay Audubon Society thunderbayaudubonsociety.com*

*October 8, 2013*

Twenty-seven people gathered at Jimmy Chen’s Hunan Restaurant in Alpena at 12:00 for a joint meeting of the AuSable Valley Audubon Society (AVAS) and the Thunder Bay Audubon Society (TBAS). Linda Klemens gave away the three centerpieces to the people that had the first correct answer to birding questions.

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Klemens at 12:30. Karen Tetzlaff gave an update on the work the TBAS was doing with the eradication of phragmites at Issacson Bay and the Alpena Township Nature Preserve. A big thank you goes to Bill Grigg for his extensive work organizing the project. Huron Pines sent three people with backpack sprayers to treat the massive stands. 4 – 8 local people assisted with the hand swiping, which was appreciated by Huron Pines. Due to weather conditions and the end of the growing season, no more can be done until next year.

Linda gave an overview of the September 24th TBAS trip to the Wildlife Recovery Association at Oil City, near Mt. Pleasant to see their facility. Linda was able to release a Merlin (Lucky) she had helped rescue earlier this summer. She shared photos of the trip.

Guest speaker, Sue Tangora from DNR Wildlife was introduced. She gave an overview using a PowerPoint presentation of invasive plant species in Michigan, concentrating on European Frog-bit. Sue reported the process for dealing with it is Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR). Matt Ankney and Stephanie Shaw (also with DNR Wildlife) shared the results of surveying the Alpena area for Frog-bit. They work with local experts, Roger Witherbee and Judy Kalmanek. Everyone hopes to stop the spread early so it doesn’t get out of control like phragmites. In 2011, surveying for frog-bit in Michigan was begun. Combining statistics for 2011 & 2012, 83 sites were monitored, 42 detections at 13 sites were found. The plants look like quarter-size lily pads. Frog-bit reproduces quickly by growing turions (winter buds) all summer and drop them in fall to form new plants next year. Several people worked to pull up plants at the kayak boat launch area at Duck Park, Besser Lake, Island Mill Park, Fletcher’s Pond, and Campers Cove. June – August is the optimum time to treat it before the pods drop. Best to “simply” pull it up and dispose of it.

AuSable Valley Audubon shared a project they are doing with eradication of purple looestrife. They also invited everyone to take part in the Sandhill Crane viewing tours. May 15-19 are the dates of the 2014 Tawas Birding Festival. 2015 will be the 10th anniversary of the festival.

A 15 minute break, while saying good-bye to AVA guests, and returning to regular meeting.

Roger Witherbee gave an update on the Alpena River Center. This spring, they hope to break gound on the field lab located at the Duck Park. In the interim time, displays will be at a temporary site in the Great Lakes Maritime Museum. Roger and Judy Kalmanek are working on those displays.

Karen Tetzlaff reported she will be the Alpena County, US 23 Heritage Route representative for the TBAS. It was suggested a birding route be looked at along that route similar to the one developed for M22.

Last year, TB Audubon Society had been asked by the AuSable Valley Audubon Society to organize a tour of the osprey at Fletcher’s Pond during the Tawas Birding Festival. Linda had asked Sergej Postupalsky, ornithologist with the National Audubon Society, who monitors the osprey, what his thoughts were on this. He did not recommend it as this is the nesting season for them and so many people viewing them would be detrimental to the birds. Hence, we will not do the tour at that time.

Craig Klemens gave the treasurer’s report. $327.95 in memorial checking, $334.75 in checking, $3400 in one CD and $10,400 in a second CD.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 26, at Cabin Creek Coffee, to discuss 2014 program ideas and the Christmas Bird Count. Linda will need a nominating committee for new officers (Linda says she will not take President again), and program ideas are needed. If you can’t attend the November meeting and you have a program suggestion, please contact one of the officers.

Christmas gift suggestion for those hard to buy-for people: A donation in their name to the Wildlife Recovery Association. All their work is supported through donations.

TBAS presented Roger Witherbee with a $1000 check for the River Center. This is the third of five annual installments.

Karen Tetzlaff moved the meeting be adjourned. Judy Kalmanek seconded. Time- 2:15

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Tetzlaff