

## Audubon Board Meeting 11/13/2025

1. Meeting called to Order at 5:57 PM
2. Roll Call
  - a. Present – John Imboden, Kathy Flegel, Kathie Wiley, Jared Gugnitz, Ron McCullick
  - b. Absent – Jenny Young, Kirk Waterstripe
3. Approval of September 25th Board Meeting Minutes
  - a. Meeting minutes accepted
4. Consideration of the Agenda
5. Introductory Comments – John
  - a. MOU – This is the agreement with the Boardman River Nature Center that we can use their facility for our membership meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. This has been signed by John for 2026, but we haven't yet received confirmation from the Boardman River Nature Center.
6. Treasurer's and Membership Reports - Kathie
  - a. Balances
    - i. Main – \$3447.27
    - ii. WH – \$1197.15
    - iii. CD – \$2144.65
    - iv. Total - \$6789.07
    - v. Outstanding fees of approx. \$344 for the year
    - vi. Treasurer's report accepted
  - b. 2026 Budget
    - i. Kathie presented the proposed budget for 2026
    - ii. Budget conditionally approved, pending discussion of Loon Platform and MOTUS tower
  - c. Membership report
    - i. 96 members outstanding (owe fees)
    - ii. 149 total
    - iii. 5 lifetime memberships
    - iv. 7 board memberships
    - v. Renewal emails went out Nov 8<sup>th</sup>
    - vi. Receipts are being sent with membership payments.
    - vii. Membership report accepted.
7. Events
  - a. Speaker Roster for 2026
    - i. January 8th: TBD (ideas include Matt Winkler – landscaping for birds (no response to email yet); Kristin from NMC (managing for monarchs. Kirk any response from her?), eBird deep dive (who would be good person to lead this?), Jenny - Peru if nothing else falls into place
    - ii. February 12th: Mackinaw Straits Hawk Count – overview of research? (note: have not had response from them yet)
    - iii. March 12th: MOTUS towers Overview by Max Henschel (note: date not yet confirmed with Max). Maybe also bring in someone from Lotek to present to the board. Maybe this should be a bigger event, hosted at a bigger space. John to also check if Max can do January instead. If so, maybe the Nate, Winkler, Jeremiah, Rio Grand Valley presentation and Matt Winkler could be in March.

- iv. April 9th: Daniel Bernard (traveling birder)? And/Or haiku (Kirk since it's national poet month) Note: who was following up with Daniel?
- b. Field Trips
  - i. February 7th (10am to 12pm) Winter Birding – Interlochen Library & GT Audubon collaboration
  - ii. February 13-16: Great Backyard Bird Count
  - iii. April TBD (Saturday) – Makerfest by Recycle Smart and TC Library
  - iv. April 5th: First Sunday morning walk of year (Kathie will take 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, Jenny will take 4th Sunday of the month)
  - v. April 25th: Arcadia Marsh (leader = Jenny Young). Targets: ducks, shorebirds and early migrant passerines
  - vi. May 2nd (10am – 12pm) Peak Spring Bird Migration – Interlochen Library & GT Audubon collaboration
  - vii. May 9th: Global Big Day – Birdathon?
  - viii. May 15th/16th: Tawas Point Bird Festival. Potential for group travel to festival (leader = Kirk Waterstripe)
  - ix. May 16<sup>th</sup>: Bridge Lake kayaking with Mary Ellen
  - x. May 22nd: Kayaking Platte River (Kathie/Jenny) – will require sign up
  - xi. June 2026: Power Island survey – Kirk to follow up with Scott Swan
  - xii. June 6th: Mason County (leader = Curt Hofer). Targets: Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Acadian Flycatcher.
  - xiii. Sat, June 13th: Kalkaska County Kirtland Warbler (leader = Tim Webb). Meet up at roadside park north of Fife Lake on U.S. 131 at 7:00 a.m
  - xiv. Date TBD: Potential bird banding demonstration at Chippewa Run. Nate Crane is going to follow up with Bill Scharf about this.
- 8. Other Items
  - a. MOTUS Tower
    - i. Funding Ideas
      - 1. Birdathon
      - 2. Collaborate with Benzie, Petoskey, Manistee
      - 3. Any state funding available? Follow up with Max
      - 4. Silent Auction/Chili Cookoff – Kathie has an inside track at the Masonic Lodge
  - b. Loon Platform
    - i. Boardman doesn't seem to work because the lake is too big and too busy.
    - ii. Mary Ellen says we might be able to put it on Duck Lake. She's going to do some research and get back to us.
    - iii. Ron suggested we follow up with the Michigan Loon Network to see if any local lakes are looking for platforms.
  - c. 2026 Board picture to be taken at next week's general meeting on Nov 20<sup>th</sup>.
- 9. Agenda and date for next Board Meeting
  - a. January 22<sup>nd</sup> in Thirlby room.
  - b. Feb 5<sup>th</sup> in Thirlby room. Might cancel this. We'll decide in January.
  - c. March 5<sup>th</sup> in Thirlby room.
- 10. Adjournment at 7:38 PM.