

Wabash Valley Audubon Society board meeting December 6, 2012  
Grand Traverse Pie Company

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Board members present were Marty Jones, Phil Cox, Brenda Milliren, Phil Milliren, Joe Dickson, Carissa Lovett, Shelley Arvin, and Ellen Lunsford.

The minutes were approved as amended. Carissa made a motion to approve the minutes, Marty seconded.

Membership chair report was given by Brenda. Our membership is consistent from month-to-month at just below 300. We are currently at 296 members. Brenda sent a letter to fifteen new members over the last two months

Phil M. gave the Treasurer's report. We have \$4,163.95 in the checking account, \$456.41 in the Memorial Fund, \$5,000.00 in CDs, and \$60.00 in cash.

Conservation report - Phil C. went to the Hoosier Environmental Council meeting in Indianapolis. The speaker talked about climate change. Indiana is one of several states that do not have a climate change plan; Phil will e-mail information about a petition that is being circulated. Marty reported that the Martin house at Lost Creek Elementary did attract Martin's; but the pole supporting the box has fallen down. Marty is going to replace the pole, and estimates the cost will be \$50-70 dollars. Phil M. made a motion to have the Society pay to replace the pole and Joe seconded the motion. Marty has permission to remove and replace the pole. The motion carried. Marty also reported that barn owls are being seen out at Chinook mine. A barn owl box is up out there, but there has been no evidence of barn owls using it. There is evidence that an owl was in the barn for two weeks; the DNR will be putting a box in the barn with permission from the owner. Barn owls are more likely to nest with the correct box in place. Carissa asked for the bluebird box to be checked to see if there is a way to secure a lid, as a raccoon or some other animal keeps removing it. Joe will fix the box. Carissa distributed fliers of activities at Dobbs. Carissa moved the birding ID for April 2013 to the 13th, and the September bird ID to the 7th to avoid conflicts with other activities.

Lucinda was not present to give an update for The Year of the River, but Phil C. noted that the website is up. There is a press conference on January 9th at 10:30 a.m. at the Girl Scout Building at Fairbanks Park. The Big Read at the Vigo County Public Library this coming year is 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer'. Phil C. called the director of the library to add any river-related Audubon events to their Big Read flier the library distributes.

Marty had no updates on our planter. Many of our plants will come back in the spring, but will need some maintenance.

Carissa gave an update on invasives removal at Dobbs. Upcoming dates are January 26th for removal, an education/work day on February 23rd, and another removal day on March 23rd. Invasives are pulled until May, with a break in the summer, and is resumed in September.

Carissa noted that we have plenty of Audubon brochures. The national chapter code on the fliers remains the same from year-to-year. They are available at Pet Food Center, Rural King, Vigo County Public Library, and Dobbs.

Marty is working on the December/January NNN, and hopes to have a draft to send for approval soon.

Recently completed events include Dr. Tuttle's presentation at Dobbs on November 14th, the invasives removal on November 17th, and bird ID also on November 17th, with Helen Vermillion. Upcoming events are member photo night on December 19th, a presentation on rescuing turtles in the Wabashiki on January 16th, Diana Hews speaking about Reptiles & Research in Parque Nacional Huatulco, Mexico on February 20th, and a topic to be announced later for the March 20th meeting. April 17th is the banquet at Kleptz restaurant. Phil and Lucinda will be at Miracle on 7th Street in downtown Terre Haute on December 7th. The Christmas bird count will be December 15th, with Carissa and Ellen doing the bird ID at Dobbs. The count at Goose Pond is on December 19th, at Turkey Run on December 22nd, and Newport on December 27th. Bird ID on January 19th is with Helen; volunteers are needed for February, March, and April.

Planned or potential WVAS projects - It was discussed about applying for a grant to pay for lighting at Dobbs. A Norcross grant did not seem likely for the type of project we have planned. Sponsorship by a company was suggested. Marty suggested we do a price comparison to see how much it would cost to do it ourselves. Marty will talk to Raoul Moore about Sycamore Trails RC&D Woods; they want to promote it as a bird habitat, but it was decided there wasn't much we could do with the area. Marty presently keeps a bird checklist for the area. Marty also noted that a volunteer at the Terre Haute Children's Museum is concerned about how many dead birds are being found outside the museum. Marty suggested turning the lights down or off, especially during key migration season. The volunteer planned to discuss ideas with the museum board.

Carissa is currently working on finding a Dobbs Park bird checklist from the 1970s. Shelley will assist with this. Phil C. talked about how the Peregrine falcon at ISU will be displaced when the towers are torn down. Marty has bird pictures displayed at Roly Poly at the request of the owner. Marty will ask if WVAS can display fliers there.

Other business - Phil M. noted that Arts Illiana Tablescapes has a fundraiser in February at the Country Club of Terre Haute. He would like WVAS to donate

something for the auction. Phil M. made a motion that WVAS donate \$100.00 to put the package together, and Ellen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Shelley noted that a bird keeps flying into the library at ISU, as the doors don't always completely shut and asked for suggestions.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Next meeting is Thursday, January 3rd, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Grand Traverse Pie Company.