Aldo Leopold Audubon Society

BOARD MEETING 10/09/24

09 October 2024 / 6:59 PM Meeting start

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Dostal, Rob Pendergast, Susan Schuller, Willow Pingel, Joe Schulz, Bob Lane, Scott Reilly, Jan Seiler, Brad Branwell-Zinda, Brad Baum, Ned Grossnickle

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- **Announcement** Dr. Stanley Temple Update
- **Action Item** Boardwalk repair

NOTES

- **Approval of Minutes** Motion by Ned G., seconded by Susan S.; carried & approved

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest: Molly Moder w/UWSP Wildlife Society on Window Collisions

- Ongoing study from Spring 2021; excluding Spring 2024
    - Monitored 2x a day during migration seasons; morning & night, 7ds/wk
    - 65 collisions over 4 survey seasons
- 40% of detected collisions attributed to CBB
    - Mostly NW/conservatory side; continuous glass wall
- 40% of detected collisions were warblers
- Study identifies problem areas to focus on for future project
- Safe Passage Committee to draft proposal for project & meet with Molly

Jewels of Nature (Karen)

- More Jewels of Nature going to publishing
- Pre-order online @ Shop | Aldo Leopold Audubon

Scotch Creek Wetland Restoration Project (Karen D., Bob L.)

- Edgar, WI; Scotch Creek & trib. Omar Creek management and restoration plan to be implemented in 2025 pending grant approvals
- ALAS works with Edgar community already doing migratory bird surveys
- Give bluebird box plans to shop class students in Edgar to help enhance habitat of restoration
    - For more info: Scotch Creek Restoration Project - Village of Edgar, Wisconsin

Bird Seed Sale (Karen D.)

- 81 preorders, up from 61
- Online total sales: $5,542.91 (up from roughly $2,280.00)
- 73% of total dollars received online
- Since majority are now online, feel comfortable increasing markup for WIX
    - Overall prices lower; expect profits will be less
- Enough volunteers to cover all shifts (18th/19th of October)

Dr. Stanley Temple Update (Susan)

- October 16th 2024 7pm - 8pm
- Stories Behind the Essays in Aldo Leopold's A Sand County Almanac
    - Recording here: Stories Behind the Essays: A Sand County Almanac by Stan Temple (youtube.com)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Statewide National Audubon Collaborative Initiative (Karen D.)

- Great Lakes Audubon has up to $6k to be used in August 2025
- Goal: Create Collaborative community engagement programs for individual chapters or collaborating with other chapters
- Collective ideas proposed:
    - Hosting Audubon photography exhibit

    - Reincorporate Wisconsin Audubon Council where chapter leaders meet & share
    - World Migratory Bird Day events on same day as other chapters, or something in May
    - Birds & Brews partnership with local brewery
- Ideas that ALAS might do:
    - Bird City events
    - Safe passage events
    - Birds & Brews

Form Committee to explore dropping “Audubon” from our name (Susan S., Karen D.)

- Working group: Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance & New North Eastern Bird Alliance can provide more information about process + legal/tax information
- Explain why we may consider this, ask membership how they feel about exploring a name change

ACTION ITEMS

Walkie-talkies for field trips (Brad Baum)

- Several field trips where communication method would be practical & improve cohesion
- Price: 4-packs for around $50.00 w/decent range
    - 4 is probably enough, 8 just in case
- Motion to approve purchase of walkie-talkies up to $200.00 by Susan S., seconded by Ned G.; carried & approved

Printing the newsletter in color (Karen D.)

- Printing newsletter:
    - As is now (color front/b&w inside): $427/12 pages
    - All color: $700/12 pages
- Discussion: Worth the cost?
    - Pros: More professional, can improve reader experience, better for marketing

    - Cons: High cost, potential waste of ink, will readers care for change?
- Motion to print in color for 1 year by Susan S., seconded by Willow P.
    - 7 for, 3 opposed, 1 abstained; motion approved

Erickson Natural Area Boardwalk (Karen)

- Up to $100.00
- Motion to give $100.00 to project by Bob L., seconded by Rob P.; carried & approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Almanac (Lora H.)

- Newsletter deadline 11/1/2024

Website (Rob P.)

- Updated grant page

Field Trips (Brad B.)

- Saw-whet owl banding trip updated Oct 11 7:30 at linwood springs
- Lots of owls!
- Currently at capacity for this trip

Publicity (Brad B-Z.)

- Announcement for next week's talk on FB
- Brad needs next month's speaker info and field trip info
- General announcement: please send presenter info to Brad B-Z, Susan S., and Rob P.

Education (Bob L.)

- Bob's sent out letters about grants
- Could use suggestions for orgs to contact that may want to submit for a grant

Conservation (Ned G.)

- E-bird taxonomy update: revisiting 1.8 billion observations & update to reflect splits to species, name changes, etc.
    - Submit unsubmitted checklists to e-bird by October 21st
    - More info here: [2024 Taxonomy Update—COMPLETE - eBird]

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm