

2022 MINUTES STRAITS AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

STRAITS AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Attended: 46 people, including 35 members and 11 guests. 18 attended in person at the Cheboygan Area Public Library, while 28 participated by Zoom.

President Dale Giddings called the meeting to order and welcomed participants, including a member from Delaware and a guest from North Carolina. The presenter, JoyAnn Mittig from American Bird Conservancy shared tips on managing forest property for birds. She urged us to ‘think outside the box’ of our own property by mapping the land use of one square mile around our property. Try to create a variety of habitat types within that area, a sustainable mosaic minimizing human disturbance such as houses and pavement. This creates resilience against disease, climate change, and invasive species. Joy shared planting tips and resources, praising the MSU handouts available online. Funding for forest improvement may be available through the Natural Resources Conservation Alliance.

Bird sightings included varied thrush, American robins, snowy owls, rough-legged hawks. Bev Kirby and Steve Baker recorded the first varied thrushes in Cheboygan County.

Members Diane Morand and Harvey Rocheleau won raffle prizes. Dale Giddings encouraged people to browse the table of items available by donation. The snack table served several varieties of cookies.

A final report was available from Kathy Bricker showing that the 2021 attendance of 382 people at nine meetings more than doubled the SAAS attendance in 2020 before SAAS used Zoom. Meetings in 2021 averaged 42 people (27 members and 15 guests). The hybrid format with attendance available either in-person or by Zoom helped increase the numbers in 2021 during the Covid pandemic.

Similarly, the 2021 attendance of 106 on nine field trips was higher than field trip attendance in 2020, but less than all previous years since 2008.

Vice President Jim Bricker announced that Mushrooms: More than Morels by Éowyn Bates will be the March 2022 program.

By substitute secretary Kathy Bricker