



## 2ND ANNUAL MAGIC IN OUR MIDST

The second annual Magic in Our Midst, held the evening of December 11th, proved to be a delightful night of fun; and, yes, magic.

The event was advertised as COVID-safe. Groups of six were escorted by medieval guides through a pathway of “talking” animals. Groups were spaced 10 minutes apart to assure safe distancing. This allowed up to 36 visitors each hour to hear what the animals had to tell them.

Twenty-seven volunteers, including 14 Alpena High School students enabled the evening to be a big success. At the end of their tour, each group was offered a package of animal crackers and a cup of hot chocolate.

Is there a plan to continue this entertaining in 2021? There was a resounding “yes!” from all the volunteers. Maybe you can plan to join us in December 2021.

## GIVING TUESDAY SUCCESSFUL!

A huge thanks to everyone who helped make our Giving Tuesday 2020 a success. We aimed to make \$5,000 and we succeeded.

On Giving Tuesday itself we netted \$4,792; however, the following day checks totaling \$350 were received making our final total \$5,142.

<http://www.ThunderBayRiverCenter.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/ThunderBayRiverCenter>

# DO FISHERIES BIOLOGISTS MANAGE MORE THAN JUST FISH?

BY TIM CWALINSKI

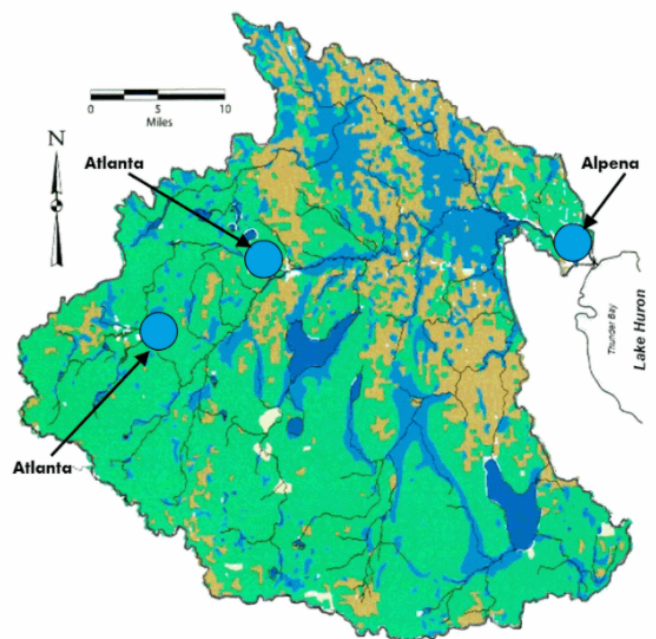
The Thunder Bay River watershed is a diverse array of wetlands, streams, larger rivers, small and large natural lakes, and even manmade impoundments or floodings. With this diversity comes a variety of water types, temperatures, and of course native, non-native (though generally accepted), and even invasive species. In the traditional viewpoint, the public sees DNR fisheries biologists as the folks who run around surveying fish populations or even stocking. This is part true, but there is a hidden side to fishery management that most never realize.

Fish populations are generally stable in inland waters. Stocking is done very little in the watershed and only certain species are considered for stocking at a limited number of locations. Biologists rely on natural reproduction of most species to provide a balanced fishery. This includes accepting the cyclic nature of fish reproduction. The true nature of fishery management is managing people that use the resource. Think about it, would fishery regulations be needed if we did not have anglers? Would fisheries habitat be more stable if there wasn't human development in the watershed? Think about how dams and shoreline develop the landscapes within the Thunder Bay River

Fishery management is easy, social management within the fishery discipline is the challenge.

The author is a member of the Thunder Bay River Board.

To receive further information, to volunteer, or to make a donation, go to "thunderbayrivercenter.org."



# THUNDER BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY BY KAREN TETZLAFF

Thunder Bay Audubon Society has been home to birding enthusiasts in northeast Michigan for over 50 years. We are also a chapter member of Michigan Audubon Society. Our purpose is to promote an interest in birds and wildlife, conserve the wildlife and natural beauty of the area and cooperate with other organizations which are working for conservation of our natural resources.

To those endeavors, TBAS has partnered with the Thunder Bay River Center, Huron Pines, Friends of Rockport, and Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary on specific projects. We contribute to the National Audubon Society's osprey project at Fletcher Pond and most years sponsor a pontoon trip to view the nests and young. One of our members is instrumental in increasing the number of American kestrels in the area by building and erecting nest boxes.

We arrange birding field trips – mostly in our area, but a favorite migration spot is Whitefish Point in the Upper Peninsula. At least once a year, we have a birding program that is geared to the general public. We organize two Christmas Bird Counts in conjunction with the National Audubon's long-running program – one in Alpena and the other in Hubbard Lake.



Thunder Bay Audubon Society was involved in establishing the Sunrise Coast Birding Trail ([www.sunrisecoastbirding.org](http://www.sunrisecoastbirding.org)), marking birding hotspots between Tawas City and Mackinaw City. Our members welcome sharing our love of birding with others who want to learn to identify and/or feed their backyard birds.

For more information, check out our webpage at [www.thunderbayaudubon.com](http://www.thunderbayaudubon.com) or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/thunderbayaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/thunderbayaudubon). You may also contact president Karen Tetzlaff at [tetzlaffk@gmail.com](mailto:tetzlaffk@gmail.com) or 989-464-6573. New members are always welcome.

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