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Birds, Birds Birds

The Lake Linden-Hubbell 10th grade class had a beautiful morning to improve bird habitat at the Lake Linden Torch Lake sands on Friday, May 12. Students planted 50 red-osier dogwood, an attractive red-stemmed shrub, that grows well in areas with variable moisture. They also installed eight birdhouses. Students enjoyed the work and had some immediate gratification. They could see tree swallows visiting their birdhouses within minutes of completing installation. One tree swallow circled a bird house before installation was even complete.

“Copper Country Audubon members donated \$150 for the eight birdhouses and posts,” said Dana Richter, president of the local chapter of the Copper Country Audubon Club. “Erickson Feed & Seed and McGann Lumber both provide a discount on birdhouses and posts for school and community projects.”

Nick Squires, Lake Linden-Hubbell 7th, 8th, and 10th grade science teacher, is also an avid birder.

“I enjoy sharing my enthusiasm for birds with the students,” observes Squires. “It’s great to get students outside learning and making a place better than they found it. We hope they’ll bring their families to see the work that they’ve accomplished.”

Squires heads up the high school’s Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative Project. The 8th grade students monitor the ecological health and biodiversity of organisms in the Trap Rock River. The 10th grade class monitors the recovery of the remediated stamp sands next to the Lake Linden Village Park and work to improve the habitat through shrub plantings and installation of nesting boxes.

“The Copper Country Audubon Club is extremely supportive of education and outreach efforts to area K-12 students,” adds Richter. “We want to encourage their appreciation and enjoyment of birds.”

Several members of the group visited the sands a couple weeks ago to clean out last year’s birdhouses so they would be ready and welcoming to the swallows now arriving.

Several more birding outings are planned to the Lake Linden School Forest and also to Brockway Mountain to view the spring migration of raptors.

Caption: Dana Richter, president of the local chapter of the Copper Country Audubon Club, instructs some Lake Linden-Hubbell 10th grade students in how to install bird-nesting boxes.

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