

Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

April 2013

Volume 32 Number 4

NEXT MEETING:

Date: Monday, April 15, 2013

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: **County/USDA Ag Service Center in Medford**

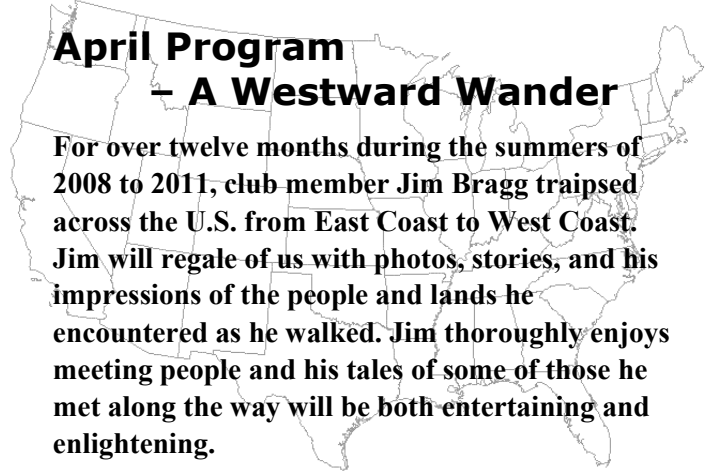
(925 Donald St, in the woods south of NTC. From Hwy 13 near the south edge of Medford, turn west on Conrad, then south on Donald to end of street)

Program: **A Westward Wander**
Jim Bragg

NOTE
LOCATION

April Program – A Westward Wander

For over twelve months during the summers of 2008 to 2011, club member Jim Bragg traipsed across the U.S. from East Coast to West Coast. Jim will regale of us with photos, stories, and his impressions of the people and lands he encountered as he walked. Jim thoroughly enjoys meeting people and his tales of some of those he met along the way will be both entertaining and enlightening.



CELEBRATE BIRDS – INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Saturday, May 11

Perkinstown Winter Sports Area

6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE (some changes may occur)

Throughout the Day:

- Displays
- Activities
 - Match Your Wingspan
 - Scavenger Hunt
 - Geo-caching
 - Life Cycles of Birds
- Crafts
 - Bird Masks, Paper Roll
 - Binoculars, Bird Silhouette
 - Cut-outs, Bird Coloring



DOOR
PRIZES

FOOD

KIDS &
ADULTS

Morning activities:

- 6:00 a.m. Early Bird Walk
- 7:30 a.m. Bird Walk
- 9:00 a.m. Wildflower and Bird Walk

- 10:00 a.m. Bird Hurdles
- 11:00 a.m. How to Identify Birds

FREE

Lunch: Noon to 1:00 p.m.; Bird Videos

Afternoon Activities

- 1:00 p.m. Bird Vocalizations and Bird Sounds Contest
- 2:00 p.m. Identifying Butterflies and Other Insects
- 3:00 p.m. Bird Hurdles
- 3:00 p.m. Life Cycles of Birds
- 4:00 p.m. Bird Houses and Bird Feeders

Supper: 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Bird Videos

Evening Activities

- 6:00 p.m. Water Critters and Frogs
- 7:00 p.m. Night Sounds – nocturnal frog, bird, and animal sounds
- 8:00 p.m. Night Walk

HELP NEEDED – SEE p. 3

Checklist Committee Report for 2012

This is the 9th annual report of the Field Checklist project for the Chequamegon Bird Club.

In the past year, a total of 18 CBC members submitted at least one monthly checklist (December 2011 meeting until December 2012 meeting). The 2012 total species total was 258, a decrease of 7 from the previous year. The previous totals starting in 2004 are: 253, 246, 248, 256, 260, 247, 274, and 265 (for a 9 year average of 256).

There were 6 species listed as rare by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO). They were **Ross's Goose** (Luepke/Ruhde), **Western Grebe** (Decker/Luepke), **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** (Luepke), **Black-backed Woodpecker** (Decker/Luepke), **Townsend's Solitaire** (Mauer/Ruesch), and **Northern Mockingbird** (Luepke).

There were 4 species listed as casual by WSO (averaging 1 record every 3-5 years). They were **Pacific Loon** in Clark County (Luepke), **Chuck-will's-widow** in Jackson Co. (Decker/Luepke /Mauer/Ruesch/C. Scott), **Spotted Towhee** in Marathon County (Luepke), and **Hoary Redpoll** in Taylor County (Davis).

An additional species not yet accepted on the WSO list was the **Whooping Crane** (Decker/Luepke/Ruhde /C. Scott).

2012 highlights include 30 species of waterfowl (including **Ross's Goose**, **Surf Scoter**, and **White-winged Scoter**), 14 raptors (including **Golden Eagle**, **Merlin**, and **Peregrine Falcon**), and 26 Shorebirds (including **Willet**, **Marbled Godwit**, **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, and **Red-necked Phalarope**). There were 6 species of owls (including **Long-eared**, and **Short-eared**), all 3 of the **Goatsuckers**, and 9 Thrushes (including **Townsend's Solitaire** and **Varied Thrush**). Other highlights were 28 of the wood warblers (including **Black-throated Blue**, **Prothonotary**, **Connecticut**, and **Hooded**), 20 species in the Sparrow family (including **Lark**, **Henslow's**, **LeConte's**, **Lincoln's**, and **Harris's**), and 11 of the blackbirds (including **Western Meadowlark** and **Orchard Oriole**). Lastly, all of the Finches (including both **Crossbills**, **Hoary Redpoll**, and **Pine** and **Evening Grosbeaks**). Only 1 new species was added to the checklist total, the **Pacific Loon**. This brings the all-time species total to 312.

In the not-so-highlights, we have a few missed birds for 2012. They include **Long-tailed Duck**, **Cattle Egret**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Parasitic Jaeger**, **Glaucous Gull**, **Great-black-backed Gull**, **Saw-whet Owl**, **Acadian Flycatcher**, **Cape May Warbler**, and **Cerulean Warbler**. It is truly remarkable that *everyone* missed the **Cape May Warblers** and **Saw-whets**!

As in years past, we urge any club members that are not participating in the checklist report to do so. The only requirements are that the birds are seen in Wisconsin and are identified by a club member. Second hand reports are not accepted.

Remember, the time frame is from one meeting to the next. If you are unable to turn in your list at the monthly meeting, please forward it to Connie Decker (snail mail and email are on each checklist or the website www.chequamegonbirdclub.org).

Thanks to all who participated in 2012 and great birding in 2013!

The checklist committee: Ken Luepke, Cam Scott, Connie Decker

And many thanks to the checklist committee!

Bird Reports (February 19 – March 18, 2013)



Connie Decker, Ken Luepke, Joan Rickert, Claire Romanak, Cam Scott, and Joe Scott

Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 51

(Only names of observers for rare or unusual sightings are included in the list below.)

- Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan (Decker/Luepke/C.Scott), Wood Duck (Decker), Mallard, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite (Decker)
- Great Blue Heron (Luepke)
- Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk (Rickert), Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove
- Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Great Gray Owl * (Decker/Luepke/C.Scott)
- Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker
- Northern Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark
- Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse (Rickert), Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper (C. Scott)
- American Robin, European Starling
- American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal, Brown-headed Cowbird (Decker/Luepke/C.Scott)
- Pine Grosbeak (Decker/Romanak), Purple Finch, House Finch, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow,

HELP NEEDED

International Migratory Bird Day – Saturday, May 11 **Taylor County Outdoor Youth Day – Friday, May 17**

Our **International Migratory Bird Day Celebration** is the biggest event we sponsor, and we can use help from everyone to make it a success.

You can help by:

- Putting up posters, which will be furnished, promoting the event.
- Telling your family and friends.
- Making bars, cookies, or other snacks to be served at the event.
- Helping set up the evening before, i.e. Friday, May 10.
- On the day of the event:
 - Greet those who attend

- Help with crafts and activities
 - Serve food
 - Answer questions about the club and/or about birds
 - ??? Lots of other possibilities
- Contact one of the club officers to offer your help.

The **Outdoor Youth Day** is attended by over 300 5th grade students from throughout Taylor and neighboring counties. The Bird Club will once again have a booth/activity. Help is needed with planning, setting up, working with the students, and taking down the booth. Contact Connie Decker.



Editor, Chequamegon Chirps
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«FIRST_NAME» «LAST_NAME»
 «STREET_ADDRESS»
 «CITY» «STATE» «ZIP_CODE»

Club Officers

President – Claire Romanak
Vice-president – Connie Decker
Secretary – Gayle Davis
Treasurer – Cam Scott

Other Club Contacts

Web site: www.chequamegonbirdclub.org
Email: info@chequamegonbirdclub.org
Newsletter Email: newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org
 (Cathy Mauer, editor)
Bird sightings: Connie Decker



Follow-ups

April - May Outdoors

- Full moon – April 25
- Birds arrive - and arrive and arrive
- Mallards, Canada Geese, Sandhill Cranes and others begin nesting
- Snakes emerge from hibernation
- White-tailed bucks growing antlers
- Little brown bats arrive
- Wildflowers blooming
- Young birds, including Bald Eagles, begin hatching
- International Migratory Bird Day – May 11
- Taylor County Outdoor Youth Day – May 17

Black Guillemot Cooper’s Island Follow-up

Video of fracturing of sea ice in the Beaufort Sea around Cooper Island:

www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10151337414870718

Friends of Cooper Island website:

www.cooperisland.org

Correction on Date of *Flight Behavior* Book Discussion

– The Friends of the Library book discussion of *Flight Behavior* has been changed to Tuesday, May 28. See March *Chirps* for more info about this book.