

# Chequamegon Chirps



Medford, Wisconsin

April 20, 2015

Volume 34 Number 4

Next meeting:

Date---Monday, April 20, 2015

Time---7 p.m.

Location--- Medford Public Library

Meeting---Election of officers, final plans for Maple Fest, International Migratory Bird Day and Taylor County Youth Expo.

Program---Spring IDs

Club tee-shirts have arrived. Long and short sleeve versions will be available. \$7 or \$11.

Three main public and educational functions for the club are scheduled in the next several weeks. First will be the Saturday, April 25 Maple Fest which is sponsored by Taylor County Lions and Lionesses. This event is drawing more people each year and the booth we will have is a good opportunity to present information about spring arrivals and the mutual benefits of interaction between birds and our immediate environment.

The next major program—and this one is sponsored by the Chequamegon Bird Club—will be Saturday, May 9 at the Perkinstown Winter Sports Area. This is a big deal. It is a day-long presentation starting with bird walks at 6 a.m. and 7:30. At 9 a.m. there will be another trail walk that will focus on wildflowers in addition to spotting and listening to birds. There will be demonstrations about tree and shrub planting as well as buying and using binoculars. Many educational displays will be set up (in case you missed them at Maple Fest). There will be nature games and activities for kids and adults. The Miller Dam Lake Association is sponsoring a free bus trip starting at 1 p.m. around Chequamegon Waters (Miller Dam) to observe waterfowl in addition to all those other new arrivals. There will be food available during the day and 4 p.m. door prizes. As Ed Sullivan would have said, "This is a really big deal!" We would hope as many of you as possible attend to enjoy the activities and pitch in to help however possible. It would be a good time to model those new tee-shirts.

The third event of the trifecta lollapollusas is the Taylor County Outdoor Youth Expo on Friday, May 15. Some 300 fifth-graders from Taylor and Price Counties come to the Taylor County Fairgrounds for a day of conservation education organized by the Taylor County Sportsman's Club. Last year some 150 volunteers from nearly 30 organizations established twenty "camps" for the students. Right in the middle of all this chaos is Connie, (no surprise there) who has represented the club along with other members for each of the previous seven years this event has been held. Tired of dull days? Volunteers are welcome. Check with Connie 715-654-5819 to see how you could help. It will liven up your day. Guaranteed.

# Celebrate! Migratory Bird Day

FREE

KIDS &  
ADULTS

## RESTORE HABITAT RESTORE BIRDS



May 9, 2015

6 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Perkinstown Winter Sports Area

**6:00 a.m.** For early birds who want to look for early birds, join members of the Chequamegon Bird Club on this **walk and learn to identify the birds** we see and hear

**7:30 a.m.** Learn to **identify spring migrating birds and resident birds** as we walk a trail through the woods

**9:00 a.m.** Focus on **spring wildflowers** on this walk and also identify birds

- 10:30 a.m.** **Habitat restoration** and choose from
- Hands-on tree and shrub **planting** outdoors or
  - Buying and using **binoculars** presentation

**noon:** **Lunch** and bird talk, including a live owl

**1:00 p.m.** **FREE bus tour around Chequamegon Waters** (Miller Dam) to look for and identify waterfowl, other water birds, and any other birds we see. *Sponsored by the Miller Dam Lake Association.* Tour will last about 3 hours.

#### Throughout the day:

- Displays about improving bird habitat in your yard, bird migration, and more
- Nature games and activities for kids and adults

#### For more information:

[www.chequamegonbirdclub.org](http://www.chequamegonbirdclub.org)  
[info@chequamegonbirdclub.org](mailto:info@chequamegonbirdclub.org)  
715-229-2022

FOOD

DOOR  
PRIZES  
drawing at  
4 p.m.

Sponsored by:



With major support from:  
Miller Dam Lake Association  
Taylor County Sportsman's Club  
Taylor County Tourism

## Another Snowy Winter

The just completed winter, as was last year, were exceptional times for Snowy Owls to visit our area. Connie Decker estimated there were at least two dozen of these visitors from the far north within a three mile radius of Dorchester. Can any other area in the state claim such a concentration? As usual, Connie was diligent in running routes and keeping track of the results early and late in the day when Snowys tend to be more visible.

On the morning of February 28 she led a group of birders to do some primo white owl viewing. These were people who had come together in Wausau in preparation for the upcoming Wisconsin Breeding Bird Survey. Connie met them south of Milan and in about an hour, gave them good views of eight Snowy Owls! Three were in the Town of Holton, Marathon County, two just west of Dorchester and the final three in southern Taylor County. Were these birders impressed? You bet. But, they were hosted by one of the most knowledgeable Snowy Owl observers around this area. In her case it is good to be near her when she is, "extra owly."

## Bird Reports: March, 2015

*Contributors: Gayle Davis, Connie Decker, Ken Luepke, Joe & Joan Rickert, Joe & Cam Scott*

Total number of species observed is 54.

Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan (Davis), Wood Duck, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse Wild Turkey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, (C. Scott), Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk (Davis), Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Sandhill Crane, American Woodcock, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-owl (Decker), Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Barred Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird (Davis), American Robin, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow (Decker/Luepke), Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Purple Finch House Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

## Rare Wisconsin bird found in the Bahamas

"A Kirkland's warbler hatched in Wisconsin last summer and weighing less than half an ounce made a 1,500 mile journey to the Bahamas where it was identified last week according to a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announcement. Now, biologists are hoping it makes the return trip to Wisconsin and can boost efforts to establish a breeding population of the federally and state endangered bird."

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Club Officers

President---Claire Romanak

Vice-president---Connie Decker

Secretary---Joe Scott

Treasurer---Cam Scott

Other Club Contacts

Web site: [www.chequamegonbirdclub.org](http://www.chequamegonbirdclub.org)

Email: [info@chequamegonbirdclub.org](mailto:info@chequamegonbirdclub.org)

Newsletter Email: [newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org)

Bird sightings: Connie Decker

APRIL AND MAY OUTDOORS

- April 25 Maple Fest
- May 4 Full Moon
- May 9 International Bird Migration Day celebration at Perkinstown Winter Sports Area.
- May 15 Outdoor Youth Expo
- New birds arriving daily
- Wildflowers blooming
- Springtime is glorious!



**Two Little Birds**  
by Mary Newell DePalma

**Birds**  
by Penelope Arlon  
and Tory Gordon-Harris



**National Wildlife Federation's  
World of Birds**  
by Kim Kurki

**Birds of a Feather**  
by Jane Yolen



**Birds**  
by Kevin Henkes