

Chequamegon Chirps



April 17, 2023 Volume 41 Number 4

The April monthly meeting will be at the Medford Library in the entryway room starting at 7:00 p.m. Weather permitting, there will be a bird walk starting at 6:00 p.m. going from the library to the nearby walkway to the mill pond. I threw the *weather permitting* part in there because after all, it is spring which has had various kinds of precipitation and 70 degree variations in recent weeks as the season bounces back and forth between winter and summer.

If it a challenge for us, what is it like for birds coming from much more mild to tropical conditions who run into huge temperature variations including blizzards? What are the numbers or percentages of mortality caused by weather extremes? Has such data been collected? It really is a life or death issue for earlier migration.

Speaking of life and death situations, we have an election scheduled this month. What do we do if there are unfilled offices? Do we have to disband as a club? Could we pick candidates on a lottery system? Do the positions stay empty and we work around them as best we can? Am I making too big a deal about this? Those questions will be open for discussion, and hopefully, resolved. If not? Any input, suggestions, new ideas will be appreciated.

OUT OF RANGE

The following information is from an article in the Birdwatching Magazine by Laura Erickson, 2014 recipient of the American Birding Association's highest honor, the Roger Tory Peterson Award, has written 12 books about birds and hosts the long-running radio program and podcast "For the Birds."

"My saddest moment as a birder was when, about 10 years ago I saw a Golden-crowned Kinglet singing. The bird was only about 10 feet away as I watched its tiny body vibrate with sound as it opened and closed its beak, but I couldn't hear a note.

"According to the Mayo Clinic, about a third of Americans between the ages of 65 and 75 suffer some hearing loss. For most, the loss is at higher frequencies rather than across the board, so we can hear someone's lower frequency vowel sounds

after we we've lost the higher frequency consonants, making them sound as if they are mumbling.

“As a birder, I was heartbroken to lose that Golden-crowned Kinglet along with Brown Creepers, Cedar Waxwings and Blackburnian Warblers. But birdsong is important to a lot more people than us birders. One hearing company, Windex, conducted a survey of people in eight different countries across the globe and found that birdsong was among the top three most valued sounds across all cultures, along with music and human voices. Every country surveyed listed birdsong as the top natural sound and in the U.K., birdsong ranked above music and human voices!

“The Phonak digital hearing aids my audiologist programmed for me, as well as other high-end ones, have two settings easily toggled between. The first is for everyday use. For me, that is the setting for hard-to-hear movie or TV dialogue, noisy restaurants, or soft-spoken companions on car trips. My second setting is programmed for birds.

“The first bird I heard through them was a robin. I thought I'd been hearing robins just fine, but with the hearing aids, their caroling sounded much more brilliant—high-frequency overtones contribute to the beautiful quality of their song. And now, instead of amorphous background noise with a few identifiable sounds, I can pick out individual birds singing simultaneously again. In the same way that eyeglasses make our vision clearer, digital hearing aids make sound clearer.

“My hearing aids, each programmed for its own ear, balance the sound, so now locating heard birds is easier than when I was in my 20s. Good digital hearing aids also selectively suppress noisy background sounds as they boost other sounds, making birdsongs clearer in high wind or alongside a shoreline with crashing waves. I still can't hear some high-frequency birdsongs unless the bird is very close, but I'm no longer watching Golden-crowned Kinglets without hearing their lovely song.”

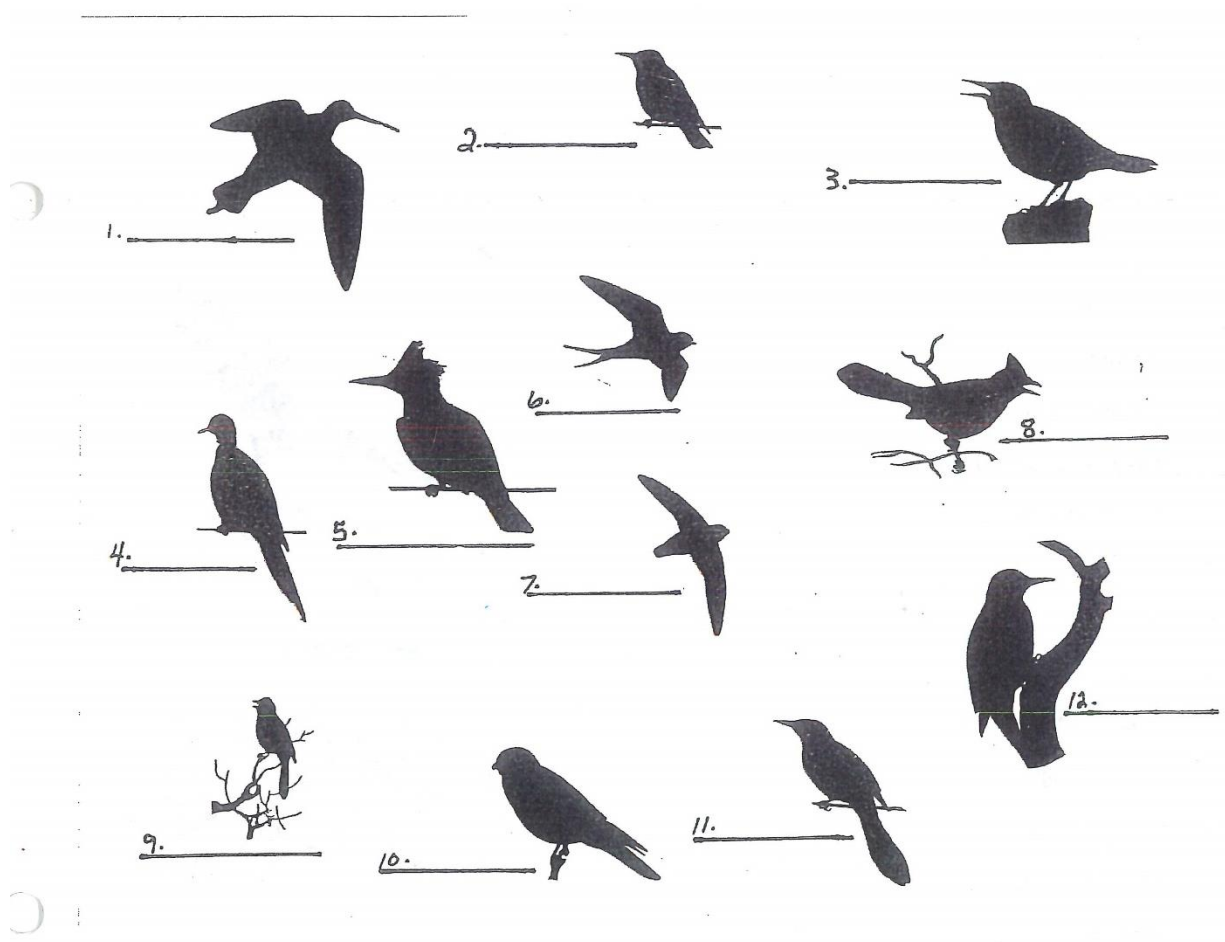
Duck and Goose Sayings

That's just ducky! That's just great! **Get your ducks in a row.** Get organized. **If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it's a DUCK!** It's obvious! **We're dead ducks.** We're going to lose. **Odd duck.** Peculiar person. **It's fine weather for ducks.** It's raining. **It's like water off a duck's back.** It doesn't bother me. **She**

took to it like a duck takes to water. She was good at it right away. **It's duck soup.** It's simple to do. **Sitting duck.** Easy target. **Quack.** Fake doctor. **Silly goose.** Foolish person. **It gives me goose bumps.** It gives me chills. **To shoe the goose.** To do something useless. **Take a gander.** Take a look. **Don't kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.** Don't destroy the source of your good fortune. **My goose is cooked.** I'm in trouble. **What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.** If you can do it, so can I. **Goose egg.** Zero.

SILHOUETTES from IDs

Light conditions can produce bird views that are only silhouettes that can be a challenge to ID. Answers are on page 4.



editor

103633 Fence Road

Abbotsford, WI 54405

Club contacts

Website: Chequamegonbirdclub.org

Information: Info@chequamegonbirdclub.org

Newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org

Birdsightings: connie1@charter.net

April and May events

WSO field trip at George Mead

Wildlife Area Saturday April 22

7:00 a.m. Meet at parking lot

headquarters on Highway S.

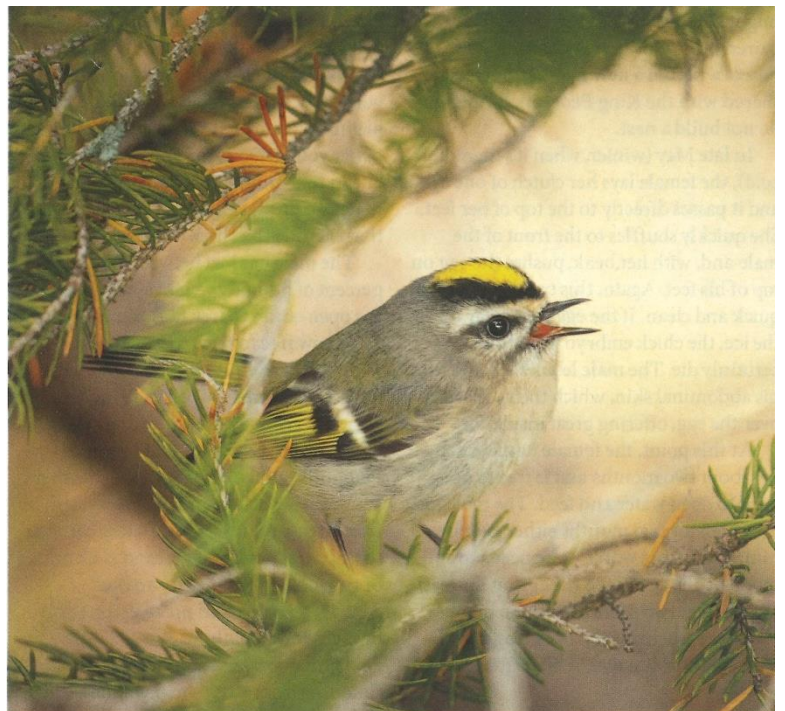
1-snipe 2-starling 3-meadowlark

4-mourning dove 5-kingfisher

6-barn swallow 7-chimney swift

8-blue jay 9-song sparrow 10-kestrel

11-grackle 12-flicker



SEE-SEE-SEE: A Golden-crowned Kinglet sings in a spruce tree. Its song is one of the first that people lose the ability to hear as they age.