

Chequamegon Chirps



August 19, 2019 Volume 38 Number 8

The August meeting of the Chequamegon Bird Club will meet at the Medford Library on the third Monday on the 19th at 7:00 P.M. In addition to any business that needs to be taken care of, there will be a film *Habitat and Season as Birding Tools* which is one of the National Geographic series of educational films. Hope to see you there.

Leucism vs Albinism

I'm skating on thin ice here—which is another way of saying I really don't know what I'm talking about. However, the subject is interesting and I think personal observations of club members could shed some light on this complicated and somewhat controversial subject. When is something an albino or is it some form of leucism? Is there such a thing as being a partial albino? The start of this thought process (or lack of such) started when Teri Bartnik mentioned an all white bird at her feeders. Connie went out to Teri's place to confirm that Teri wasn't hallucinating and there really was a white bird coming to the feeders. What kind of bird was it? That can be extremely tough to figure out if the darn thing has no color pattern. Their final estimate was that it was either a Song Sparrow or House Sparrow. I'd like to hear a discussion of other unusual sightings by club members as well as definitions of albinism. This could be a lively discussion, but please, no punches allowed.

Ken's Pond

Two to three hundred ducks are now visiting Ken's pond at night. Mostly Mallards, there are also some Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal and a few Wood Ducks. It continues to be a popular roosting place for Sandhill Cranes and one Whooping Crane. The mosquitoes are awful, but it is still an intriguing place for an evening visit.

Southern Bird Movement

Shorebirds and some Warblers have quietly passed through on their southern journeys. We probably won't see Yellow, Bay-breasted or Canada Warblers until next spring. Ditto for most shorebirds. One area to see many—and sometimes in awesome numbers—is at Hawk Ridge in Duluth. The next two pages have raptor silhouettes and timetables for their migration. Next month I'll have more details about this amazing place.



- Flap, flap, flap...glide
- Short, rounded wings
- Long tail
- Usually low

Accipiters



- Soaring & gliding
- Long, broad wings

Buteos

Falcons

- Pointed wings
- Bullet-shaped body
- Steady flapping



- Soaring & gliding
- Very dark
- Very large

Eagles

Harriers

- White rump patch
- Long, narrow tail & wings
- 'Flappy'



- Long wings
- Soars & glides
- M-shaped

Osprey

Vultures

- Long wings
- Short tail
- Very tippy
- Rarely flaps



ACCIPITERS

- Flap, flap, flap, glide
- Usually low
- Short, rounded wings
- Long tail
- 'T' shape



Sharp-shinned Hawk (Aug, Sep, Oct)
Most common accipiter. Flaps and glides intermittently. Immature brown above with brown streaking on breast & belly below; adult, bluish-gray back, rusty breast. Jay size.

Cooper's Hawk (Sep, Oct)
Uncommon. Coloration same as shin. Larger size and rounded tail often difficult to determine. Longer neck/head profile and straighter leading edge of wing vs. shin.

Northern Goshawk (Oct, Nov)
Crow/raven size. Immature same coloration as shin; adult has slate gray back, lighter breast, white eye line, dark cap. Heavier bodied than other accipiters. Note paler wing coverts.

BUTEOS

- Most apt to soar & glide
- Broad, rounded wings & tail when soaring



Broad-winged Hawk (Sep)
Smallest buteo. Abundant in large kettles during mid to late September. Immature has narrowly banded tail. Adult has a distinctive thickly-banded black and white tail. Underwing clear with black outline on all ages.

Red-tailed Hawk (Oct, Nov)
Large, usually solitary, common, often has a light breast & belly with a noticeable belly band. Adult has rufous tail, immature has narrow brown bands. Plumage highly variable. Note dark shoulder patches and wrist 'comma' on underwing.

Rough-legged Hawk (Oct, Nov)
Large, black band on tail, distinctive black wrist spots. "Flappier" than other common buteos. Wings often held in a slight dihedral (V-shape). Dark-morph birds lack diagnostic tail and underwing patterns.

OSPREY

- Large
- Glides & soars in an 'M' shape
- Little flapping



Osprey (Aug, Sep)
Usually alone or in pairs. Often confused with gulls because of their shape. Distinctive M-shaped wings from below and in profile. Dark back. White head ("headlight") and breast visible at a great distance.

FALCONS

- Steady flapping
- Fast pumping flight
- Pointed wings
- Bullet-shaped body



American Kestrel (Sep, Oct)
Very common. Small, rufous back and tail with very pointy wings. Flapping is fast and looks loose-jointed.

Merlin (Sep, Oct)
Common. A little bigger, darker, faster, heavier and more aggressive than the kestrel. Similar shape.

Peregrine Falcon (Sep)
Crow size. A large, heavy falcon. Typically high and fast. Adults have dark backs, light breasts and dark mustaches. Immatures have paler heads, brown backs and brown streaks on the breast/belly.

EAGLES

- Very large
- Apt to soar & glide
- Usually very dark



Bald Eagle (Oct, Nov)
Broad, flat wings. Usually alone. Immature is dark with white mottling, often mistaken for a Golden Eagle. Adults have dark bodies and wings with a white head and tail. Much more common than the Golden Eagle.

Golden Eagle (Oct, Nov)
Uncommon. Broad, slightly dihedral wings. Adult all dark. Immature has white underwing spots and white on upper tail. Smaller head and beak than Bald Eagle.

HARRIER

- "Flappy," loose jointed
- Long, narrow wings and tail



Northern Harrier (Sep, Oct)
Usually alone. Adult male is gray with light underparts and black wing tips. Female and immature are brown. All ages have vividly white rump. Wings often held in a dihedral. In migration flaps more and flies higher than when hunting.

VULTURE

- Large
- "Tippy" rocking flight
- Appears headless



Turkey Vulture (Sep, Oct)
Common. Distinctive dihedral with a "tippy" flight. Rarely flaps. Two-toned black and gray underwing. Adults have a red head and immatures dark gray.

PRIMARY MIGRATION TIMING - AT HAWK RIDGE

	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Osprey	██████████		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	██████████	██████████	
Northern Harrier	██████████	██████████	
American Kestrel	██████████	██████████	
Merlin	██████████	██████████	
Broad-winged Hawk	██████████		
Cooper's Hawk	██████████	██████████	
Peregrine Falcon	██████████		
Turkey Vulture	██████████		
Red-tailed Hawk		██████████	
Northern Goshawk		██████████	
Rough-legged Hawk		██████████	
Bald Eagle		██████████	
Golden Eagle		██████████	

Our Mission The mission of Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory is to protect birds of prey and other migratory birds in the Western Lake Superior Region through research, education, and stewardship.

Activities at Hawk Ridge

- Hawkwatching
- Live Bird Education Demos
- Hiking
- Photography
- Public programs
- Kid's Cart
- Merchandise Trailer

Contact Us! www.hawkridge.org
mail@hawkridge.org • 218.428.6209

Hawk Ridge count & banding research have been in action for **OVER 40 YEARS!**

Hawk Ridge averages **OVER 75,000** migrating raptors each fall.

The **RECORD NUMBER** of raptors counted in:

ONE DAY:
102,321
on Sept. 15, 2003

ONE SEASON:
205,087
in 2003

— FUN FACTS —

Editor Chequamagen Chirps
103633 Fence Road
Abbotsford, WI 54405

Club contacts

Website: Chequamegonbirdclub.org

Information: info@chequamegonbirdclub.org

Newsletter: newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org

Bird sightings: connie1@charter.net

August and September events

Full moons August 15 and September 13

Perseid Meteor Showers August 12-13 prime viewing

Artrageous Weekend at Wausau September 7 and 8

Birds In Art starts September 7

Southbound migration increases

Including Monarch butterflies

Beginning Bird Watching

