



Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

December 2009

Volume 28 Number 12

NEXT MEETING:

Date: Monday, December 21, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Medford Public Library
400 N Main St
Medford

Program: Winter Get-Together

Silent Auction: Bring something new or nearly new that you no longer want (but may be a real treasure for another person) to add to the Silent Auction table.

Refreshments: Everyone – Please bring cookies or another treat to share. Beverages will be furnished by the club officers.

Please bring your own mug for beverages.



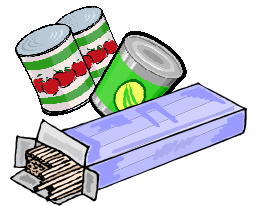
New This Year ~ Food Drive ~



As we celebrate the winter holidays with friends and food, we would like to remember and help those who may not have enough for a basic meal, many of them children. Please bring non-perishable food items or household supplies (see below).

Some food ideas:

- Boxed or canned dinners (beef stew, chili, etc)
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Cereal
- Peanut butter
- Canned soups
- Pasta products
- Spaghetti sauce
- Complete pancake mix/ syrup
- Juice (100% fruit)
- Infant and toddler foods



Non-food items are also needed:

- Toilet tissue
- Facial tissues
- Paper towels
- Diapers
- Soap
- Laundry detergent
- All purpose cleaning liquid (e.g. Pine Sol)
- Shampoo
- Dishwashing liquid
- Deodorant



The items will be donated to those in need through an area food pantry.



INSIDE

Christmas Bird Counts	p. 2
Give to the Birds.....	p. 2
Bird Reports	p. 3
Sunflower Seed Sale.....	p. 3
December-January Outdoors.....	p. 4
Bird Success Stories.....	p. 4

Christmas Bird Counts

Each winter from December 14 through January 5, club members and friends rise in the dark, fill their thermoses with coffee, tea, or hot chocolate, pack sandwiches, and head to their cars with binoculars and field guides in hand. Starting before it is light to listen for owls, they spend the day covering their assigned section of a Christmas Bird Count circle. The circle, like all Christmas Count circles, is 15 miles in diameter. Every bird seen or heard is tallied. The same circles are used each year, which allows trends in bird populations to be tracked.

Chequamegon Bird Club members take part in several Christmas Bird Counts including:

- Spencer – December 19
- Owen – December 20
- Clam Lake – December 21
- Gilman – December 26
- Willard – December 28
- Medford – January 2

Volunteers may participate either as field counters or feeder watchers. The club pays the \$5.00 fee for each field participant for all the above counts except Clam Lake. There is no fee for feeder watchers. Anyone interested in participating can contact Cathy Mauer (748-3160) to get contact information for the count coordinator. Some counts may already have a full roster of field counters.

The following information is from Audubon's Christmas Bird Count website:

“The first CBC was done on Christmas Day of 1900

Give to the Birds

If you're looking for gift ideas or thinking about end-of-year charitable donations, there are many ways to support birds and bird conservation. Here are a few ideas:

Give bird items as gifts:

- Feeders and birdbaths
- Seed and suet
- Field guides and other bird books
- Binoculars
- Wildlife plants

Volunteer:

- Schools, scouts, 4-H, Bird Club
- Many of these groups have activities involving nature and wildlife.*



Gilman
Christmas
Bird Count
Circle

as an alternative activity to an event called the “side hunt” where people chose sides, then went out and shot as many birds as they could. The group that came in with the largest number of dead birds won the event. Frank Chapman, a famed ornithologist at the American Museum of Natural History and the editor of *Bird-Lore* (which became the publication of the National Association of Audubon Societies when that organization formed in 1905) recognized that declining bird populations could not withstand wanton over-hunting, and proposed to count birds on Christmas Day rather than shoot them.”

That first year twenty-seven participants took part in twenty-five counts. Now tens of thousands of volunteers take part in over 2,000 counts in nineteen countries across the Western Hemisphere.

Donate to:

Wisconsin Society of Ornithology

www.wsobirds.org

Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative

www.wisconservation.org/index.php?page=bird-conservation-campaign-2

American Bird Conservancy

abcbirds.org

National Audubon Society

audubon.org

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

www.birds.cornell.edu

Operation Migration

www.operationmigration.org

Raptor Education Group, Inc (REGI)

www.raptoreducationgroup.org



Bird Reports (October – November 2009)

Checklist observers: *Gayle Davis , Connie Decker , Hildegard and Loretta Kuse , Ken Luepke , Doug and Willa Pledger , Claire Romanak , and Cam Scott.*

(Note: Only observers for rare or unusual sightings are included below.)

Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 80

- Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Mallard, Canvasback , Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey
- Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe (Luepke), Double-crested Cormorant
- Great Blue Heron
- Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel
- American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane (Decker / Luepke), American Golden Plover (Decker/Luepke), Dunlin, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock
- Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove
- Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl
- Belted Kingfisher
- Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker
- Northern Shrike, Gray Jay (Romanak), Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven
- Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird (Decker (late))
- European Starling, Cedar Waxwing
- Yellow-rumped Warbler (Romanak (late))
- American Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal
- Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle
- Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow

SUNFLOWER SEED SALE

\$14.00 for 50# (tax exempt)

Compare & save – remember that most stores are now selling sunflower seed in 40# bags

- locally grown
- order for friends & relatives
- pick up at December Bird Club meeting

**Call Connie by Monday noon to order.
654- 5819**

Fund r a i s e r - *Bird Club makes \$2/bag.*



Editor, Chequamegon Chirps
N4416 Crane Dr
Medford WI 54451-9376



«FIRST_NAME» «LAST_NAME»
«STREET_ADDRESS»
«CITY» «STATE» «ZIP_CODE»

Club Officers 2009-2010

President – Claire Romanak

Vice-president – Connie Decker

Secretary – Hildegard Kuse

Treasurer – Cam Scott

Other Club Contacts

Web site: www.chequamegonbirdclub.org

Email: info@chequamegonbirdclub.org

Newsletter Email: newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org

Bird sightings: Connie Decker



December - January Outdoors

- Winter Solstice – December 21
- Endangered Species Act anniversary – December 28 (1973)
- Full moon – December 31
- Perihelion (Earth closest to Sun) – January 2
- Aldo Leopold birthday – January 11
- Weasels and snowshoe hares wearing white coats
- White-tailed bucks begin to shed antlers
- Black bear cubs are born
- Black-capped chickadees begin spring courtship song

Bird Success Stories

In November of this year, the Brown Pelican was removed from the Endangered Species List. The population had suffered from hunting and DDT. Since being listed, the population has increased to over 650,000 birds in North and Central America.

A few other birds have also been delisted, including:

Bald Eagle – 2007

American Peregrine Falcon – 1999

Some others that are increasing, though still not out of danger:

California Condor

Whooping Crane

Wood Stork

Piping Plover

Kirtland's Warbler