

Chequamegon Chirps



Medford, Wisconsin

December 19, 2016

Volume 35 Number 12

WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT THE MEDFORD LIBRARY

A time to celebrate the arrival of winter plus a salute to soon lengthening days. The officers will furnish liquid refreshments and the rest of us can bring cookies, bars or some kind of snack to share. If so inclined, you may bring non-perishable food items to be delivered to local food pantries. The Silent Auction will provide proceeds to help fund club projects. New or interesting items of bird-and-nature themes are especially appropriate, but other items offer variety for interested bidders. It is also a good time to visit and make final plans for upcoming Christmas Bird Counts and hear about the results of the completed Spencer count. Speaking of Christmas Bird counts, here is a detail from last year that shocked me. One specie, whose total of 153,853 on all counts almost equaled the totals for Starling-84,439-House Sparrow-42,982- and Black-capped Chickadee-27,940. Think about what the weather was last December. I expect that specie to have much lower numbers this year.

November Programs

Joe Scott and Claire Romanek presented information about southern experiences that included birding. Joe was in Mississippi on fire duty, but that was slow, so he had time to help work with endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. His slides and videos showed how installing nest boxes is a complicated process for this specie. Another oddity was rat snakes are the biggest predator of their 60 foot high nests. Never knew snakes could be such impressive climbers. Claire and Bob traveled by motor home from Louisiana to Arizona. She commented how birding is a great way to meet new friends while traveling in addition to spy many new species. Also, setting out seed and humming bird feeders can bring in visitors almost immediately as they recognize RVs can be good sources of food. Claire also added new "lifers" of Yellow Rail and Streak-backed Oriole on this trip.

PS-There will be Chequamegon tee-shirts available in most sizes at the meeting.

191 Birds identified by club members in Wisconsin for 2016

Geese-Greater White-fronted, Snow, Ross's, Cackling, Canada.

Swans-Mute, Trumpeter, Tundra.

Ducks-Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy.

Partridge-Gray **Pheasant**-Ring-necked

Grouse-Ruffed, Spruce, Sharp-tailed, Greater Prairie-Chicken. **Turkey**-Wild

Loon-Common **Grebes**-Pied Billed, Horned **Pelican**- White **Cormorant**-Double-crested.

Herons-Great Blue, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Green. **Bittern**-American Bittern

Hawks-Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged, Red-tailed, Rough-legged, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Merlin. **Vulture**- Turkey

Rails-Sora **Cranes**-Sandhill, Whooping. **Plovers**-Killdeer

Sandpipers-Spotted, Solitary, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Upland, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock. **Gulls**-Ring-billed. **Terns**-Caspian, Black.

Doves-Rock Pigeon, Mourning. **Cuckoos**-Yellow Billed, Black Billed.

Owls-Eastern Screech, Great Horned, Snowy, Barred. **Goatsuckers**- Common Nighthawk.

Swift-Chimney. **Hummingbird**-Ruby-throated. **Kingfisher**-Belted.

Woodpeckers-Red-headed, Red-bellied, Yellow bellied Sapsucker, Downy, Hairy, Northern Flicker, Pileated.

Flycatchers-Olive sided, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian, Alder, Least, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested, Eastern Kingbird. **Shrikes**-Northern

Vireos-Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Warbling, Red-eyed.

Corvids-Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven. **Lark**-Horned

Swallows-Purple Martin, Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Cliff, Barn.

Chickadees-Black-capped. **Titmouse**-Tufted. **Nuthatch**-Red-breasted, White-breasted.

Creeper-Brown. **Wrens**-House, Winter, Sedge, Marsh. **Gnatcatcher**-Blue-gray.

Kinglets-Golden-Crowned, Ruby-crowned. **Starling**-European.

Thrushes-Eastern Bluebird, Verry, Hermit, Wood, American Robin, Varied Thrush.

Mimids-Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher. **Waxwings**-Bohemian, Cedar.

Warblers-Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine, Kirkland, Palm, Black-and-white, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning, Common Yellowthroat. **Tanager**-Scarlet **Towhee**-Eastern

Sparrows-American Tree, Chipping, Clay Colored, Field, Vesper, Savannah, Henslow, Fox, Song, Swamp, White Throated, Harris's, White Crowned, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting.

Cardinals-Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel,

Blackbirds-Bobolink, Red-winged, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty, Brewer's, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole.

Finches-Purple Finch, House Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch. **Old World Sparrow**- House Sparrow.

This list is open to corrections and additions which will be in the January Chirps.

Memorable bird and life experiences for Peggy and Norma

Sometimes happenings come together in a most amazing and memorable way. Peggy Stalheim was walking on a path in the Marshfield Park as the November super moon came over the horizon. She was soaking in the moonlight and shadows when one, two and then three of the park wolves began to howl. As she continued on the path she realized there was a Great Horned Owl above her perched on a branch. It hooted before it silently glided away. This occurred against the background of the Christmas light show hosted at the park. Wow, what a goose bump moment.

Norma Smoje saw a "tornado" of birds near her house this summer. She lives north of a Curtiss hog butchering plant which has a truck that spreads offal from the animals they process. Birds have learned to follow this truck when spreading material on area fields. Judy said there were Turkey Vultures and Bald Eagles that glided in circles above the truck and then descended "like a tornado" when there was material on the ground. The driver mentioned at times he had to steer around birds that guarded special morsels.

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December-January outdoors

Full moon 12-14 and 1-12

Winter solstice 12-21

Take time to enjoy the beauty of snow

If not too cold or icy, get fresh air

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First feeders at dawn

Paired like question marks

Last feeders at dusk

Haiku from The Cuckoo's Haiku

