



Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

February 2013

Volume 32 Number 2

NEXT MEETING:

Date: **Monday, February 18, 2013**

Time: **7 p.m.**

Location: **Medford Public Library**

Program: **Birds of Hawai'i**
Cathy Mauer & Gordy Ruesch

Birds of Hawai'i Program

Escape winter for an evening and enjoy a program about the birds of Hawai'i. Cathy Mauer and Gordy Ruesch will discuss the birds they saw on a recent visit to the Aloha State, accompanied by photos of many of them.



Nēnē – the State Bird of Hawai'i

Due to its relative isolation, Hawai'i was home to a large number of endemic species. Although many of these species have, unfortunately, become extinct, there are still at least two dozen bird species that are found nowhere else in the world. There are also many introduced species from around the globe, including a few familiar species that are well-known here in Wisconsin.

National Eagle Center Field Trip

A trip to the National Eagle Center at Wabasha MN is tentatively planned for **Saturday, March 9**. We plan to leave the Medford area about 6:30 a.m. and return about 6:00 p.m. That date is part of the Center's "Soar with Eagles" celebration; World Bird Sanctuary (a wildlife rehab and education center near St. Louis) is the featured program and David Stokes, a naturalist and entertainer will also be there. Depending on weather and what has been reported in the area and en route on days preceding our field trip, we will also plan on doing other birding.

We will carpool. If you are interested in going, please contact Cam Scott, 715-785-7614.



??? What If There Is Bad Weather on a Meeting Night?

In case we have to cancel a meeting due to weather, it will be broadcast on K99, WKEB & WIGN, by 3 p.m the day of the meeting. It would also be found on their web page under the "cancellations" tab on the "community" section.

Reminder: Annual Dues

If you haven't yet paid your annual dues, you may bring you payment to the February meeting or mail a check (payable to *Chequamegon Bird Club*) to:

Cam Scott
Chequamegon Bird Club
N3566 Grover Dr
Withee WI 54498

Dues are once again be \$18/per household, i.e. one mailing address. Dues cover club activities, conservation support, and the *Chirps*.

Help Wanted

An exciting and educational schedule of programs, field trips, and events is being planned for the rest of 2013. While most of the meeting programs only require contacting potential speakers, some events and field trips need extra planning and help.

One of our big events is the **International Migratory Bird Day Celebration**, which will be held the second Saturday of May. Club members are needed to help plan the event, contact speakers, create and set up displays, prepare food, direct activities, etc. Regardless of your interests or abilities, your help is needed to make this a successful event. We hope to make this year's celebration bigger and better than ever. Please contact Gayle, Connie, or Claire to offer your ideas and services.

Project Feeder Watch

New participants joining Cornell's Project FeederWatch in February will automatically be signed up for next season, too. Join now for the rest of the 2012-2013 season and receive the 2013-2014 season at no extra charge!

For \$15, you'll receive:

- Project FeederWatcher's Handbook and Instructions

Cats – Yet, Again

A recently released report indicated that the amount of predation by free-ranging cats – including feral cats, farm cats, and those whose owners let them roam outside – is much greater than previously estimated. The new report, which was published in *Nature Communications*, is based on a meta-analysis of previous studies and extrapolated that data to the United States as a whole. The authors estimate that 1.4-3.7 billion [yes, billion] birds and 6.9-20.7 billion mammals are killed annually by free-ranging domestic cats. Unowned cats are probably responsible for most of these killings. Free-ranging cats represent the greatest single source of human-caused mortality of birds and mammals in the U.S.

While these estimates cover a broad range, there is little doubt that the impact is severe. What to do about it is another question. Cat owners can help by

For the 6th year, we will be participating in the **Taylor County Outdoor Youth Expo**, to be held on Friday, May 17 at the Taylor County Fairgrounds. We need your ideas and your help in creating the display and staffing the booth during the Expo. Contact Connie Decker, 715-654-5819 or

While the **Annual Banquet** isn't until October, volunteers are needed to serve on the banquet committee, which is responsible for scheduling a speaker and deciding on a location, menu, and caterer. Contact a club officer if you would like to help with banquet planning.

The Chequamegon Bird Club will continue to be only as good as its members make it. By participating in meetings, field trips, and special events, and contributing a bit of your time and effort, you can help the Bird Club thrive in 2013.

- an identification poster of the most common feeder birds
- *Winter Bird Highlights*, an annual summary of FeederWatch findings.

The fee helps offset the costs of staff support, scientific analysis of data, and your FeederWatch kit. Go to www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw for info.



keeping their cats indoors, which also helps their cats live longer, healthier lives. However, convincing these owners of these benefits is a problem. Many cat

owners do not want to admit that their well-fed and lovable Fluffy becomes a predator when allowed outside for her evening stroll, despite all evidence to the contrary.

An even greater problem is how to control the population of unowned/feral cats. While some people advocate capture, neuter, release programs and/or establishing feral cat colonies, these measures are not effective for reducing unowned cat populations or reducing the mortality of birds and other prey, and other solutions need to be investigated.



Bird Reports (December 2012 – January 2013)

Checklist observers: *Gayle Davis, Connie Decker, Ken Luepke, Hildegard and Loretta Kuse, Willa Pledger, Joan and Joe Rickert, Claire Romanak, Cam Scott, and Joe Scott*
Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 58

(Only names of observers for rare or unusual sightings are included in the list below.)

- Canada Goose, Wood Duck (C. Scott/J. Scott), Mallard, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse (Decker/Luepke), Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite (Decker/Luepke)
- Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove
- Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl
- Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker
- Northern Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark
- Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse (Multiple observers), Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren*, (Davis/C. Scott), Golden-crowned Kinglet
- American Robin, European Starling
- Bohemian Waxwing, Cedar Waxwing
- American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow (Davis/C. Scott), Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting
- Northern Cardinal
- Red-winged Blackbird (Davis/Romanak), Eastern Meadowlark (Multiple observers), Brown-headed Cowbird (Decker/Luepke)
- Pine Grosbeak, Purple Finch, House Finch, Red Crossbill (Multiple observers), White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll ** (Decker/Luepke), Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak (Multiple observers),

Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will be held Friday, February 15, through Monday, February 18. Like other bird counts, data gathered by participants help assess the status of bird populations.

It is easy to participate:

- This year the GBBC is being integrated with eBird. Even if you have participated in past GBBC counts, you will need to create a GBBC account, which you can do when you report your first results on February 15. You can also use your eBird login.
- Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the GBBC. You can count in multiple places and on as many days as you would like. Separate checklists should be submitted for each day and location. Estimate the number of individuals of each species you see.



Dennis Ziober Photo
All About Birds

- Enter your results on the GBBC website or on eBird. If you already use eBird, use eBird to enter your results but just be sure to enter at least one checklist for the GBBC count period.

You can also submit photos you take during the count period and enter the GBBC photo contest.

For more information about the GBBC, go to www.birdsource.org/gbbc

For more information about eBird, go to ebird.org/content/ebird



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

Club Officers

President – Claire Romanak
Vice-president – Connie Decker
Secretary – Gayle Davis
Treasurer – Cam Scott

Other Club Contacts

Web site: www.chequamegonbirdclub.org
Email: info@chequamegonbirdclub.org
Newsletter Email: newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org
 (Cathy Mauer, editor)
Bird sightings: Connie Decker



Birder’s Web

February – March Outdoors

- Great Backyard Bird Count February 15-18
- Full moon February 25
- Great Horned Owl begin nesting
- Mink and snowshoe hares begin mating
- Maple sap may start flowing
- Woodfrogs may begin calling and breeding if warm enough
- Bald Eagle migration begins
- Sandhill Cranes begin arriving
- Wild Turkeys begin gobbling
- Gray squirrel young are born
- American Robins, Eastern Bluebirds, and Red-winged Blackbirds arrive

Feeder Watch Cams

Along with other bird watching cameras available online, such as those giving views of eagles, hawks, owls, vultures, hummingbirds, there are many feeder watching cams. Here is a partial list of links:

In Ontario Canada – Part of Project FeederWatch
http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/38/Feeder_Watch_Cam/

Links to feeder cams worldwide
<http://www.viewbirds.com/feeders.htm>

Remember that most are not on during the night and also account for time zone differences.