



Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

January 2008

Volume 27 Number 1

NEXT MEETING:

Date: Monday, January 21, 2008

Time: 7:00 p.m.

**Location: Medford Public Library
400 N. Main St.
Medford**

We will be meeting in the small conference room inside the library, to the right.

**Program: Discussion of Projects, Future Programs, Fund Raising, Officers
Everyone**

Food: Gordy Ruesch, Cathy Mauer



OTHER COMING EVENTS:

- Great Backyard Bird Count is February 15-18

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Due to printing issues, if you get an electronic copy, you will not be getting a mailed copy this month.

Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative

The agreement that founded the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative was signed in 2001. Over 150 endorsers are partners in WBCI, including educational institutions, government agencies, conservation organizations, and bird clubs. The following statement is from the WBCI website:

"Wisconsin partners will deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation, including both game and nongame birds, by working together in voluntary, cooperative initiatives. We will coordinate bird-based projects to ensure effective management for all birds in Wisconsin. We will assess and manage birds and their habitats using the best available science and using ecological landscapes as the management units. Accordingly, we will work both within and outside of Wisconsin to ensure that bird conservation needs are met, and we will share knowledge widely to further bird-based recreational opportunities in Wisconsin."

WBCI attempts to integrate the bird conservation efforts of its partners into a coordinated effort. It is modeled after and part of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. Its goals are:

- Manage communities of birds at a regional and landscape level.
- Keep common birds common.
- Conserve and restore endangered, threatened, and rare bird species and their habitats.
- Identify and prioritize management opportunities and needs for birds and their habitats in Wisconsin.

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WBCI goals (cont.)

- Coordinate existing bird conservation initiatives in Wisconsin.
- Develop broad-based partnerships.
- Provide private landowners and land managers the best available ecological information.
- Use voluntary approaches when working with public and private landowners.
- Promote bird-based recreation and the enjoyment of birds.
- Develop management strategies that consider the social and economic impacts on people throughout planning and implementation

WBCI is on the forefront of bird conservation in Wisconsin and its goals are consistent with those of the Chequamegon Bird Club. The CBC may want to become a partner.

More from WBCI

Bird Monitoring in Wisconsin: Opportunities for Citizens to Make a Difference

The second annual WBCI Birder Conference will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, on March 14-15, 2008.

The conference will highlight exciting new opportunities for birders and wildlife enthusiasts to help monitor and conserve Wisconsin's birds. Friday will feature a birding field trip along Lake Michigan led by Chris Wood who is Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird Project Manager, a WINGS Birding Tour leader, and a former Wisconsin birder. Also, a dazzling presentation on Wisconsin's birds in the tropics by Craig Thompson, chair of the WBCI International Committee.

On Saturday, morning talks will emphasize new citizen-based bird monitoring opportunities in Wisconsin, such as secretive marshbirds, nightjars, and Kirtland's Warblers, and the

Club News

- REMINDER: Club dues are payable in January. Dues are \$18.00 per mailing address. They may be paid at a meeting or mailed to Bernice Gokey, 540 N. 4th St., Colby WI 54421.
- The CBC is still collecting aluminum as a fund raiser. You may bring aluminum cans and other aluminum to any meeting.



- HEADS UP! – Great Backyard Bird Count
February 15-18

Several club members have been taking part in the Great Backyard Bird Count for the past few years. It's fun and easy.

- Record the highest number of each species that you see at one time in your yard or other area.
- Enter the results on the GBBC website.

Check the GBBC website for more information.

www.birdsource.org/gbbc



Spring Owl Monitoring, and the afternoon will include hands-on workshops on eBird and the Western Great Lakes Birder Certification Program. The lineup of speakers and workshop leaders includes such notables as Noel Cutright, Chris Wood, Bob Howe, and others.

For more information and a registration form go to the WBCI website:

www.wisconsinbirds.org/BirdMonitoring.htm

While registration is free, attendees are asked to register so that plans can be made for space as well as food and beverages.

Bird Reports (November - December 2007)

Checklist observers: Rhoda Barber , Gayle Davis, Connie Decker, Ken Luepke , Cathy Mauer , Gordy Ruesch , Claire Romanak , Larry Ruhde, Cam and Greg Scott.



Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 65

- Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, American Wigeon, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Black Scoter (Decker / Luepke), Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye,, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey
- Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle (Scott), American Kestrel
- Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane (Decker / Luepke)
- Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove
- Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher (Davis /Scott / Romanak)
- Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker
- Northern Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven
- Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper
- American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing
- American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal
- Red-winged Blackbird (Davis), Rusty Blackbird (Luepke), Brown-headed Cowbird (Decker / Luepke)
- Pine Grosbeak (Decker / Mauer / Ruesch / Scott), Purple Finch, House Finch, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll ** (Romanak (very rare)), Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak (Mauer / Ruesch / Scott)
- House Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow (Ruhde)

Wisconsin Golden-winged Warbler Campaign

Golden-winged warblers are one of many warblers that nest in Wisconsin and migrate to Central and South America for the winter. But in one way they are special to Wisconsin – 25% of the breeding population nests here.

WBCI has launched the Golden-winged Warbler Campaign and is seeking, along with its partners, to raise \$50,000 to train Latin American biologists to identify and begin protection efforts of the warbler's wintering habitat in the mountains of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia, and Venezuela. Its habitat is threatened by destruction of forests for agriculture. Partners include the American Bird Conservancy, Partners in Flight, and Fundación ProAves (a Colombian bird conservation organization). In addition to golden-winged warblers, these efforts will benefit other Wisconsin breeding birds such as cerulean warbler, Canada warbler, olive-sided flycatcher,

rose-breasted grosbeak, scarlet tanager, and eastern wood-pewee and several globally threatened Latin American species.

The breeding grounds in North America, including Wisconsin, are also under threat as the shrubby thickets and young forests it prefers are replaced by older, more mature forests.

Donations may be made to:
The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 2317
Madison, WI 53701-2317
Specify: "GWWA Campaign"

CBC may also look for other ways to participate, perhaps by assisting with monitoring efforts in this area.



Laurie Smaglick Johnson
WCBI Website

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Club Officers 2007-2008

President – Gayle Davis

Vice-president – Connie Decker

Secretary – Hildegard Kuse

Treasurer – Bernice Gokey

Other Club Contacts

Web site: www.sws-wis.com/cbc

Email: info@chequamegonbirdclub.org

Newsletter Email: newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org

Bird sightings: Connie Decker

January – February Outdoors

- Goldfinch, chickadees, and cardinals begin singing
- Great horned owls begin courting and nesting
- Full moon – January 22
- Beaver, gray squirrels, fox, and coyotes begin mating
- Horned larks migrate north
- February 15-18 Great Backyard Bird Count



Birder's Bookshelf

Important Bird Areas of Wisconsin: Critical Sites for the Conservation and Management of Wisconsin's Birds

Edited by Yoyi Steele

One activity of the WBCI is the designation of Important Bird Areas in Wisconsin. These areas are critical sites for bird conservation. The book includes site descriptions of eighty-six areas across the state, including habitats, birds, and management/stewardship issues. It also includes maps and photographs as well as an overview of the program.

Books are \$21.50 plus postage and are available through WBCI.