



Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

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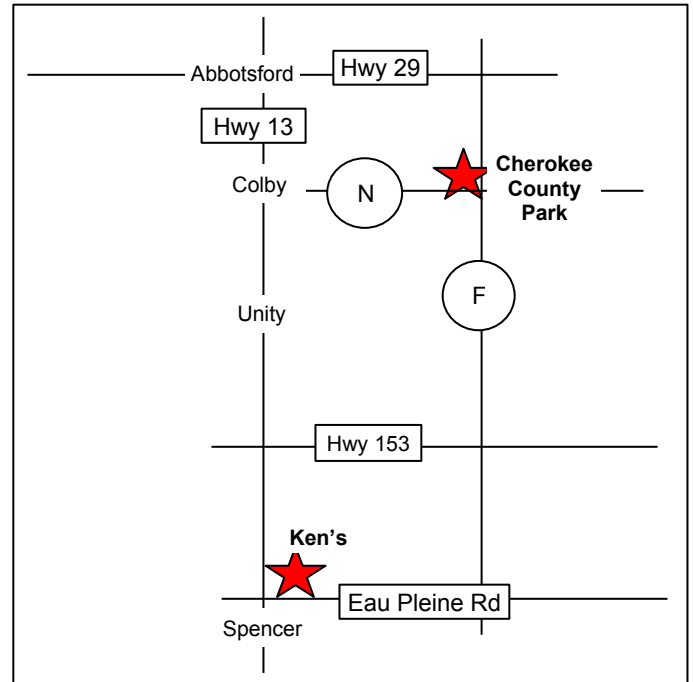
NEXT MEETING (Field Trip and Picnic):

Date: Monday, June 18, 2007

Time and Location: 3:00 p.m. Field Trip
Meet at Ken Luepke's
6:00 p.m. Annual Picnic
Cherokee County Park
See Map (right)

Program: Field Trip & Annual CBC Picnic

Food: Everyone – See article below



Annual Picnic and Pre-Picnic Field Trip

Please be a part of the group for a **pre-picnic birding field trip** on **June 18th before our next meeting!** We will meet at Ken Luepke's residence at **3:00 p.m.** Ken's address is B894 Eau Pleine Rd. Eau Pleine Rd. is just north of Spencer and Ken is about a mile east of Hwy 13 on the north side of the road. After hopefully having the honor to observe the Whooping Crane which is again roosting at Ken's marsh, we will drive to McMillan Marsh just northeast of Marshfield. Most birding will be conducted from vehicles or short walks from the vehicles so hiking is not required. CBC's walkie talkies will be provided to ensure all participants are informed of sightings as we go along.

The CBC **annual summer picnic** will be held at **Cherokee County Park** near Colby. We will meet and begin sharing a potluck at **6:00 p.m.** Cherokee Park is located about 4.5 miles east of Colby on Cty Rd N just east of Cty Rd F where F intersects with N from the south. Non-avian winged creatures may be joining us so bring insect repellent!

Please bring a **dish to share** and your own beverage, plate and silverware setting. Connie, Cam and Gayle will be providing buns and barbecue, along with condiments. Bring a chair if you don't want to sit at a picnic table. Greg will provide the entertainment.

Hope to see all members able to attend both the field trip and the picnic!!

Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey by Cathy Mauer

Arising at 3:15 a.m., bushwhacking through tag alder, following a beautiful esker, and carefully picking our way through a bog – all part of a morning's "work" as participants in the Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey. Headquartered at LeFeber Scout Camp east of Crandon in the Nicolet National Forest, Gordy Ruesch and I joined over seventy people of all ages and from as far away as Georgia to take part in the 21st annual survey, which is held the second weekend in June.

The birding skills of participants in the survey varied from expert to novice but all played a role. Teams of four or five people visited pre-designated sites, where they listened – mostly – and watched for birds for ten minutes. Those with the most skill at identifying birds by ear were the main listeners while others served as timers and recorders but also listened and watched. In addition to Gordy and me, our team included a seventy-seven year old retired clergyman, a Forest Service biology technician, and a computer consultant.

Saturday morning we visited six sites, including a wonderful bog. While we found no unusual birds there, we did enjoy the bounciness of the bog and saw a pink orchid called dragon's mouth (*Arethusa bulbosa*) or swamp-pink, as well as many pitcher plants. Dragon's mouth is a Wisconsin Special Concern species. The Cathedral of the Pines was another one of our Saturday sites. As its name suggests, there are many very tall pines, both red and white, at the site. It is also well known for its large heron rookery, which has been active for many, many years.



Dragon's Mouth
Robert W. Freckmann Herbarium
Hugh H. Iltis photo.



Golden-winged Warbler
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
C.S. Robbins photo.

While Saturday's sites were pretty easy to find and to get to, Sunday was a different story. Several sites involved bushwhacking to get to them and our GPS unit didn't always agree with the site description. So much for technology! We did have an interesting excursion through the aforementioned tag alder and a cedar swamp. Our reward was a pretty site right along a trout stream. The last shrub swamp site on our list was flooded out by beaver activity; we did the survey from the edge of the swamp. A golden-winged warbler at that site was our most uncommon bird for the weekend.

A new feature this year was a Saturday afternoon program and field time to learn about dragonflies. Dragonflies are some of my favorite insects, so I was happy for the opportunity to learn more about them. In the future dragonfly surveys may be included in the bird survey weekend.

Gordy and I had taken part in two previous surveys, one on the Nicolet NF and one on the Ottawa NF. We have always had a great time, learned some new birds, and met some nice people. We will be taking part in future years and hope other CBC members will join us.



Newly emerged dragonfly

Bird Sightings (April-May 2007)



Check list participants: Rhoda Barber , Gayle Davis , Connie Decker , Hildegard and Loretta Kuse , Dennis Larson, Ken Luepke , Cathy Mauer , Gordy Ruesch , Doug and Willa Pledger , Larry Ruhde , Greg and Cam Scott.

Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 204

- Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan (Multiple observers), Tundra Swan (Davis / Scott (late)), Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck,
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite (Mauer / Ruesch)
- Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe (Davis / Scott / Kuse), Red-necked Grebe (Ruhde), Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron
- Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk (Davis / Scott), Red-shouldered Hawk (Ruhde / Scott), Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin (Ruhde)
- Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane (Decker / Luepke / Ruhde), Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit (Luepke), Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Wilson's Phalarope, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern (Davis), Common Tern, Forster's Tern, Black Tern
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl (Scott),
- Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher
- Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker
- Olive-sided Flycatcher (Decker / Luepke), Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher (Ruhde), Alder Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird
- Bell's Vireo * (Ruhde), Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo
- Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven
- Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow
- Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper
- House Wren, Winter Wren, Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin
- Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing
- Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler * (Ruhde), Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black and White Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler (Ruhde), Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler
- Scarlet Tanager
- Eastern Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Lark Sparrow (Ruhde), Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow (Ruhde), Le Conte's Sparrow (Davis), Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow (Kuse), Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow (Luepke), White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco
- Lapland Longspur, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink
- Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle. Brown-headed Cowbird. Orchard Oriole. Northern Oriole



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

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

June - July Outdoors

- Turkey hens begin molting
- June 21 – Summer solstice
- Basswood begins flowering – ah, the wonderful fragrance!
- June 30 – Full moon
- July 6 – Earth is farthest from sun
- Painted turtles begin hatching
- Fall shorebird migration begins
- Sandhill crane chicks learn to fly



Birders' Toys

birdJam

One of the newest methods for taking bird songs, and photos, into the field is by using birdJam. Using an Apple iPod, birdJam allows users to access any North American bird song easily. Multiple playlists allow searching alphabetically, by habitat, by family, by sound-alikes, and several other ways. birdJam is software that organizes the Stokes bird song CDs for easier access and for use on an iPod. Any or all of the components (birdJam Maker software, Stokes CDs, photos, or preloaded iPod) can be purchased through www.birdjam.com. I was pleased to see the birdJam website includes a section on the ethics of using recordings in the field.

birdJam Maker software - \$59 for eastern N. America

birdJam on a 30GB iPod - \$375

Other options are also available.

