



Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

June 2013

Volume 32 Number 6

NEXT MEETING:

Date: **Monday, June 17, 2013**

Time: **5:15 p.m. Carpool from Medford**

**6:00 p.m. Meet in Gilman and
then head to Pershing**

Location: **Pershing Wildlife Area**

Program: **Field Trip**

June Program –

Field Trip to Pershing Wildlife Area

With the summer solstice almost upon us, we're going to take advantage of the long day and enjoy an evening field trip to Pershing. Sunset will be at 8:51 p.m. so we should have plenty of daylight. If the weather cooperates, we will also have a waxing gibbous moon.

For those who would like to carpool from Medford, meet in the parking lot behind Hardee's on Hwy. 13 at 5:15 p.m.

We will then drive to Gilman and meet those who would like to join us there at 6 p.m. at the new gas station on the north side of Hwy. 64 just after you enter Gilman.

From Gilman we will carpool to Pershing Wildlife Area. Many of the pools are visible from a vehicle, but we will be stopping at various sites and will probably do a bit of walking, too. Please dress accordingly. You may want to bring mosquito repellent and be aware that ticks also live in Pershing.

For more information about Pershing Wildlife Area, go to:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/pershing.html>

About Pershing Wildlife Area

Pershing Wildlife Area is approximately 7,900 acres, with over 1,000 acres of wetlands, including 15 flowages, runoff ponds and potholes. Approximately 3,000 acres of brush-prairie is managed (in conjunction with the wetlands) through periodic rotations of prescribed burning. The remaining 3,000 acres is managed in scattered blocks of aspen and northern swamp hardwood forest. The property is managed for sharp-tailed grouse, waterfowl and other open wetland, grassland and brush-prairie species. The forested acreage is managed for ruffed grouse and other upland game and non-game species.

Walk on the Wild Side – Birds and Wildflowers

Saturday, June 15

7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Campus Woods (located at the south end of Donald St in Medford, adjacent to the County/USDA Ag Service Center, just south of the Northcentral Technical College)

This 25-acre woods is home to woodpeckers, warblers, vireos, thrushes, hawks, and other birds, as well as a diverse array of wildflowers. One and a half miles of trails wind through the woods. As we watch and listen for birds, we will also stop to look at wildflowers that may still be blossoming and explore any other signs of nature that catch our eyes and ears. The trails are mostly dry but may have a few wet areas so please wear appropriate footwear. Bring binoculars if you have them.

The Monthly Bird Report

Every issue of the *Chirps* includes the monthly Bird Report, which lists birds reported from one meeting date to the next. The reports are based on field checklists turned in by club members. The Field Checklist Committee (Connie Decker, Ken Luepke, and Cam Scott) reviews the checklists. In order to verify identification of rare or uncommon birds, a Committee member may contact the reporter for more details.

F.A.Q.s

On the checklist, what do * and ** indicate?

* rare (8 or fewer "published reports" yearly)

** casual (a "published report" in 3-5 years)

[Note: these do not correspond with the WSO online Review List.]

Where can I get a blank checklist?

Checklists may be picked up from Connie Decker or printed from the Bird Club website.

What is done with the information?

At the end of each year, the Committee compiles a summary of the checklists, which is published in the *Chirps*. Comparisons can be made with past years.

Do I need to be an expert to participate?

No, all members are encouraged to keep a checklist and turn it in.

See the information below for more on recording your observations, especially those of uncommon or rare birds.

*The Rare Bird Documentation Form from WSO (Wisconsin Society for Ornithology) includes the following questions, which are useful to record if you expect to report an uncommon or rare bird on our Bird Club checklist, too. The items in **bold** provide good guidelines for identification of any bird, whether common or rare. For those who like to keep a bird journal, the complete list of questions also offers an outline for recording your observations. And, as most of us know, it is a good idea to write down what we saw right after we saw it, for after a day of birding, it may be difficult to remember details accurately.*

- Location (including county; be as specific as possible)
- Observation Date
- Observation Time
- Length of observation
- Distance to bird
- Weather conditions and visibility/lighting
- Types of optics used
- **Description (Be specific including remarks about size, shape, plumage, color pattern, bill and leg color, and any other unique features you noticed)**
- **Similar species to be considered and HOW they were eliminated**
- **Describe any vocalizations noted**
- **Bird's behavior during observation**
- **Specific habitat the bird was seen in**
- Previous experience with this and similar species
- Field guides or other resources used to identify bird
- Indicate if bird was photographed
- Indicate if report is from notes made during the observation, notes made after the observation, or from memory
- Indicate if report submitted because species was record early or late
- Names of other persons who observed and independently identified this bird

The online form is available at http://wsobirds.org/?page_id=3208

Bird Reports (April 16 – May 20, 2013)

Gayle Davis, Connie Decker, Ken Luepke, Cathy Mauer, Gordy Ruesch, Claire Romanak, Cam Scott, and Joe Scott



Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 206

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

- Cackling Goose (Luepke), Greater White-fronted Goose (Luepke), Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Eur. Wigeon ** (Multiple observers), American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup (Decker/Luepke), Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse (J. Scott), Greater Prairie-Chicken (Ruesch), Wild Turkey
- Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe (Luepke), Eared Grebe * (Luepke), American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant
- American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret * (Luepke), Green Heron, Black-Crowned Night Heron (Multiple observers)
- Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk (C. Scott/J.Scott), Red-shouldered Hawk (Luepke/J. Scott), Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin (Multiple observers), Peregrine Falcon (Luepke)
- Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane (Decker), Black-bellied Plover (Luepke), Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer
- Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper (Luepke), Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Wilson's Phalarope
- Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Common Tern, Forster's Tern, Black Tern
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove
- Eastern Screech-Owl (Decker/Luepke), Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl
- Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher
- Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker
- Olive-sided Flycatcher (Luepke), Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher (Davis), Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird
- Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling 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, 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, Black-throated Blue Warbler (C. Scott), Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black and White Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler (Luepke), Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Canada Warbler, Scarlet Tanager
- Eastern Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting (Decker)
- Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting
- Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark (Davis/Luepke), Yellow-headed Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole (Luepke), Northern Oriole
- Purple Finch, House Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow

Species are arranged taxonomically. Some families may be grouped together to save space.

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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

June - July Outdoors

- Summer Solstice – June 21
- Full moon – June 23
- July 5 – Aphelion (Earth is farthest from the Sun)
- Blue-winged Teal young begin hatching
- Some wildflowers start going to seed while others are just beginning to bloom
- Painted turtles begin hatching
- Cicadas can be heard, especially on warm days
- Sandhill Crane chicks and many other young birds begin learning to fly
- Fall shorebird migration begins – yes, it's not even midsummer, but shorebirds leave early.

Speaking of Birds (website)

I happened upon this website today:
<http://www.speakingofbirds.com/resources/index.htm>.

You will find both practical and humorous information. *A Guide to Not Mis-Identifying Birds* is in the former category, and Jim Frazier, the owner of the website, gives eleven tips to improve your accuracy in identification. In the humorous category, *The Universal Laws of Birding* includes the “Sacrificial Lamb Law - The bird will be seen by others only after you, as the sacrificial lamb, leave” and “Sosenky's 3rd Law - Woodpeckers and creepers spend more time on the far side of the trunk” along with many other birding truisms.

The website also has articles by Frazier about birding he has done throughout the United States and a link to Frazier's photo gallery.