

# Chequamegon Chirps



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The Medford School Forest is the site for our June picnic. It is located about eight miles east of Medford on Highway 64. The driveway, which has an identification sign, is on the south side of the road, less than a half mile east of where Highway C goes north. This education area for the Medford School District has a nice mix of forest and open areas with ponds to provide good bird habitat in addition to other animals. A general walk will start at 5:30 with the meal to follow at 6:30. There is an indoor area where we will eat which also has bathrooms. Benches are available for eating, but you may want to bring chairs for an evening bonfire. The club will provide meats and buns. Please bring your own utensils. If your name is an A to P, please bring a side dish to pass. R to Z for dessert. Does that sound reasonable? If not, make different arrangements because I don't know what I'm talking about when it comes to this kind of planning. Come to think of it, that probably includes just about any kind of organized planning. Last year's picnic resulted in the identification of 32 species. Wonder what the count will be this year?

Speaking of species, the team members of the Chequamegon (Sam) Robbins team were out in force Saturday June 10. Considering the heavy winds for the day, they did very well to come up with 125+ species. The totals are still being calculated. (I'm writing this on the 11<sup>th</sup>) A final listing will be available at the picnic. Gayle Davis, Connie Decker, Ken Luepke, Cathy Mauer, Gordy Ruesch, Cam Scott and Joe Scott all participated in this birdathon/fund raiser. You can still contribute on a per bird level or set amount. Half of the funds raised will go to the Chequamegon Bird Club and the remainder distributed to various state groups.

If you would like a booklet with the names and contact information of club members, contact Cam Scott at [cam@sws-wis.com](mailto:cam@sws-wis.com) or 715-785-7614. Those will then be available at the picnic.

## 167 species identified between April and May meetings

Cackling Goose, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Widgeon, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Double Crested Cormorant, American White Pelican, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Black-necked Stilt, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Upland Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Black Tern, Forster's Tern, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-header Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Wood Pewee, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated 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, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Chad Robbins, friend to birds and birdwatchers.

The older brother of Sam, he attended the May 1987 meeting of the Chequamegon Bird Club where he and Sam fielded questions from an audience of more than 100. I once read a blurb by Roger Tory Peterson that mentioned while he had good ears, Chad's were better. And while Sam wasn't bragging, he did say his ears were just a bit more acute than Chads. The following information by Emily Langer appeared in the Washington Post newspaper in March after Chad died at 98.

"Chad as he was known to everyone, was principal author of *Birds of North America: A Guide to Field Identification*, first published in 1966—a bible for millions of birding enthusiasts. This book was known colloquially as the Golden Guide for publishing series. Unlike predecessor guides, the book included a wealth of color images as well as maps of each bird's breeding ground and migration path a sonogram, or visual representation of its call.

"For more than six decades he worked as an ornithologist at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, MD. In the 1950s he documented the damage wrought by the pesticide DDT, including its thinning effect on Osprey and eagle eggshells. Rachel Carson, a colleague at the time, relied on his research for her environmental manifesto "Silent Spring." An early champion of citizen science, Robbins founded the North American Breeding Bird Survey, an initiative that has grown since its founding in 1965 to involve thousands of volunteer birders in an annual effort of exacting rigor to measure the continental bird population. It is one of the two most significant avian monitoring programs of its kind. Robbins participated in the other, the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, for more than 80 years, said its director, Geoff LeBaron.

"It is not an exaggeration at all to call him one of the giants of 20<sup>th</sup> century ornithology and bird conservation," John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, N.Y., said in an interview.

He was credited with tagging more than 115,000 birds but named his favorite as the House Wren, a plain brown creature that he loved, he told the Baltimore Sun, for its "amazingly high-pitched and intricate song."

Chad Robbins said that his first conscious memory was of a display of mounted birds at the library in Belmont, Mass., where he was born on July, 1918. His father was a birder, and Chandler's brother Sam also grew up to be a noted ornithologist. (Sam was the author of *Wisconsin Birdlife*, which when published in 1991 was the most comprehensive source of information on the status and distribution of birds in Wisconsin. Sam, who edited the *Passenger Pigeon*, quarterly journal of WSO, from 1953 to 1969, died in 2000.)

Editor Chequamegon Chirps

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#### CLUB CONTACTS

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#### June and July Outdoors

Full moons 6-9 and 7-8

6-21 Summer Equinox

The longest daylight days of the year  
highlight another cycle of births and hatchings.  
Appearance of fledglings coming to feeders.  
Time to make use of a hammock.



House Wren