



Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

March 2013

Volume 32 Number 3

NEXT MEETING:

Date: **Monday, March 18, 2013**

Time: **7 p.m.**

Location: **Medford Public Library**

Program: **Black Guillemots, Climate Change, and More**
Dr. George Divoky

New Type of Program

We are trying a new type of program for our March meeting. Dr. Divoky will be joining us via the internet. We will be able to see his presentation and interact with him, asking questions and making comments. This opens some great possibilities for guest speakers.

March Program – Black Guillemots and Climate Change

As our winter wanes and turns to spring and we expect new arrivals who are heading north, we are also heading north – to Alaska - for a program about Black Guillemots, which breed in Alaska and often over winter in the same area or nearby. But this is more than a program about birds that live in the Arctic. It is also about the impact of climate change on these birds, their environment, and their neighbors.

Dr. Divoky has been going to Cooper Island near Point Barrow each summer to study the Black Guillemots and has discovered changes in their feeding options that relate to shrinking ice and some invasive species. He is usually out there solo and will share some of his adventures. Dr. Divoky has been the subject of a major NY Times Magazine article, has been the inspiration for a character in a play that ran in London last year, and has appeared on commercial and public radio and television.



USFWS Photo

Areas on the edge, such as the Arctic, are often prone to the earliest and greatest impact from change, and that is what Dr. Divoky is seeing on Cooper Island. The Guillemots may be canaries in the coal mine of climate change.

This program is a wonderful opportunity to hear and interact with a world renowned scientific researcher. It should be an exciting evening.

2013 Program and Event Schedule (Tentative)

March 18 Black Guillemots & Climate Change
George Divoky (thanks to Earl & Chris Finkler)
via Internet

April 15 Walk across the U.S.
Jim Bragg
(Meet at Medford School Forest)
Election of officers

May 11 International Migratory Bird Day *
(Perkinstown Winter Sports Area)

May 20 Birder Certification Program

May 17 Youth Day *
(Taylor County Fairgrounds)

June 17 Field trip to Pershing SWA

July 15 Annual Picnic
(Wildwood Park in Marshfield is a possible location,
birding before the picnic)

Proposed Field Trips for 2013

These are in addition to those listed above as part of regular monthly meetings.

- Wabasha, MN for eagles (weather has been a problem with planned trips to Wabasha)
- McMillan Wildlife Area for shorebirds
- Mead Wildlife Area
- Red-headed Woodpecker habitat that is being restored/created on an area farm
- Madison area for a variety of birding sites

Birding Classes

Planning is underway to offer birding classes to the general public in June. Tentative plans are for the class to meet four times. The first three sessions would be mostly indoors, perhaps with a short outdoor segment. The last session would be a field trip.

August 19 Birding in Peru
Claire Romanak

September 16 Technology in Birding and Bird
Comedy on the Web

October 21 ? Annual Banquet
(Exact date and details to be determined.)

November 18 Wildland Firefighting
Joe Scott

December 16 Annual Winter Party and Silent
Auction

January 20 Alaska
Earl and Chris Finkler

*Special events – Volunteers needed!

*Gordy
Ruesch
photo*



If you have a specific location or general area that you would like to visit on a Bird Club field trip, please contact a club officer with your idea – or even better, volunteer to lead the trip.

Those of all skill levels are invited to come on any of these field trips. Field trips are a great way to improve your birding skills, see some birds you might otherwise not see, and enjoy a day with other club members.

If you have any suggestions for these classes as far as content or location, or if you know people or groups who might be interested, please contact Connie Decker (715-654-5819) or Cathy Mauer (715-748-3160).

Bird Reports (January 22 – February 18, 2013)



Connie Decker, Ken Luepke, Cathy Mauer, Gordy Ruesch, Willa Pledger, Joe and Joan Rickert, Claire Romanak, Cam Scott and Joe Scott

Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 48

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

- Canada Goose, Wood Duck (Decker), Mallard
 - Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey
 - Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk (Romanak/C. Scott), 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, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper (Pledger/C. Scott), Carolina *Wren, (Decker/Luepke), Golden-crowned Kinglet (Mauer/Ruesch)
 - European Starling, Bohemian Waxwing (Decker)
 - American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting
 - Northern Cardinal
 - Brown-headed Cowbird (Luepke)
 - Pine Grosbeak, House Finch, Red Crossbill (Mauer/Ruesch), White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll ** (Romanak/C. Scott), Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak (Pledger/C. Scott), House Sparrow
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Bird Training and Quizzes On-line

We're in that time of year when snow and slush and still limited day length may discourage us from spending as much time outdoors as we would like, but that doesn't mean we can't be improving our birding skills.

A surprising number of on-line sites are available to help us with identification both by sight and sound or to help us learn about the life history of birds. Here are a three that offer quizzes:

The Patuxent Bird Quiz

Hosted by the USGS Wildlife Research Center

www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/trend/birdquiz.html

Test yourself in beginner or advance categories and by photographs, song, or range maps.

Dendroica Quiz

Hosted by Nature Instruct, which includes sponsorship by USGS and its counterparts in Canada and Central and South America and other bird conservation organizations.

www.natureinstruct.org/dendroica/quiz.php

Select number of species to be quizzed on either by sound, photo, or both. The site takes a bit of exploring and experimenting to use. It is also one of the best sites available for identification.

Eric Haines Bird Quiz

www.realtimerendering.com/birds/birdquiz.html

I just found this site. Pretty amazing. It creates a quiz and will let you select the types of info you want included in the quiz. This is not a photo or sound quiz but a text quiz. Check it out.



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«FIRST_NAME» «LAST_NAME»
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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



Nature Bookshelf

March - April Outdoors

- First day of Spring/Vernal Equinox – March 21
- Full moon – March 27
- Great Horned Owl young hatch
- Eastern Meadowlarks arrive
- Woodcocks return and start peenting
- Hooded Mergansers and Wood Ducks arrive (though we have had one of the latter in Medford all winter)
- Eastern Phoebes, Tree Swallows, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers arrive
- Bald Eagles start nesting
- Ruffed Grouse begin drumming

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver

I rarely include books here that I haven't read, but Kingsolver is one of my favorite authors. I usually find myself torn between savoring each page of her books and wanting to immediately read the whole book.

Although it involves flight and migration, this book is not about birds; it is about monarch butterflies. Or more accurately, about the interplay of conservation, climate change, and politics. Kingsolver's love for the natural world and her understanding of the complexities of societal and individual needs usually show in her writing, and I expect the same in this book..

Flight Behavior, is the **Friends of the Library (Medford) Readers' Group Book Discussion selection for May 14**, starting at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The book is available at the library.