

Chequamegon Chirps



March, 2022 Volume 40 Number 3

Our March session will be Monday, March 21 at 7:00 P.M. If you haven't participated in one of our zoom sessions before, this may be your last chance. With warmer temperatures allowing outside gatherings and Covid-19 declining, normal looks much more promising. Connect to **314 090 6270** to find out which species have already arrived and the differences from north to south locations. Ron Dreger will present information about the effects of lead shot on different species.

Species Identification 2022

The following list is of birds identified by club members from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 within the state of Wisconsin. I had hoped to have more contributions, but those were limited, so there are more species that could be on this list. The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology lists 347 species that occur regularly to casually within the state. This does not include more rare visitors which can cause quite a stir of excitement.

Geese—greater white-fronted, snow, cackling Canada. **Swans**—tundra, trumpeter. **Ducks**—wood duck, gadwall, American widgeon, American black duck, mallard, blue-winged teal, northern shoveler, northern pintail, green winged teal, canvasback, redhead, ring-necked, redhead, lesser scaup, bufflehead, common goldeneye, hooded merganser, common merganser, ruddy. **Pheasant**—ring-necked. **Grouse**—ruffed, greater prairie chicken. **Turkey**—wild. **Loons**—common. **Grebes**—pied-billed, eared. **Cormorant**—double-crested. **Pelican**—American white. **Bitterns**—American bittern, least bittern. **Hérons**—great blue, great egret, cattle egret, green. **Vulture**—turkey. **Hawks**—Osprey, bald eagle, northern harrier, sharp-shinned, Cooper's,

northern goshawk, broad-winged, red-tailed, rough-legged, golden eagle. **Rails**—Virginia rail, sora. **Gallinules**—common gallinule, American coot. **Cranes**—sandhill, whooping. **Stilt**—black-necked. **Avocet**—American. **Plovers**—black-bellied, American golden, semipalmated, killdeer. **Sandpipers**—spotted, solitary, greater yellowlegs, willet, lesser ,rumped, pectoral, semipalmated, short-billed dowitcher, long-billed dowitcher, Wilson's snipe, American woodcock, Wilson's phalarope. **Gulls**—Bonaparte's, ring-billed, herring. **Terns**—black, Forster's. **Doves**—rock pigeon, Eurasian collared, mourning. **Cuckoos**—yellow-billed, black-billed. **Owls**—eastern screech, great —horned, snowy, barred, long-eared, northern saw-wet. **Goatsuckers**—common nighthawk, eastern whip-poor-will. **Swift**—chimney. **Hummingbirds**—ruby-throated. **Kingfisher**—belted. **Woodpeckers**—red-headed, red-bellied, yellow-bellied sapsucker, downy, hairy, northern flicker, pileated. **Falcons**—American kestrel, Merlin, peregrine falcon. **Flycatchers**—eastern wood-pewee, willow, least, eastern phoebe, great crested, eastern kingbird. **Shrikes**—northern. **Vireos**—yellow-throated, warbling, red-eyed. **Corvids**—blue-jay, American crow, common raven. **Lark**—horned. **Swallows**—purple martin, tree, northern rough-winged, bank, cliff, barn. **Chickadees**—black-capped. **Titmouse**—tufted. **Nuthatches**—red-breasted, white-breasted. **Creeper**—brown. **Wrens**—house, winter, marsh. **Kinglets**—golden-crowned, ruby-crowned. **Thrushes**—eastern bluebird, veery, hermit, wood, American robin, varied thrush. **Mimids**—gray catbird, brown thrasher. **Starling**—European. **Pipit**—American. **Waxwings**—cedar. **Longspurs**—Lapland longspur, snow bunting. **Warblers**—ovenbird, northern waterthrush, blue-winged, black-and-white, Tennessee, Nashville, mourning, common yellowthroat, American redstart, yellow, chestnut sided, palm, yellow-rumped, black-throated green, Canada, Wilson's. **Towhees**—eastern. **Sparrows**—American tree, chipping, field, vesper, Savannah, fox, song, white-throated, white-crowned, dark-eyed

junco. Tanagers—scarlet. **Cardinals**—northern cardinal, rose-breasted grosbeak, indigo bunting, dickcissel. **Blackbirds**—bobolink, red-winged, eastern meadowlark, yellow-headed, rusty, Brewer's, common grackle, brown-headed cowbird, Baltimore oriole. **Finches**—pine grosbeak, house finch, purple finch, red crossbill, white-winged crossbill, common redpoll, pine siskin, American goldfinch, Evening grosbeak. **Old World Sparrows**—house sparrow.

Altricial vs. Precocial

Why are some birds born blind, naked, and helpless while others are much more developed to being completely independent at hatching? Good question. There are advantages and disadvantages to either process. All songbirds are altricial. Their brains aren't as developed as precocial chicks at hatching, but by the time they fledge, they are more developed. Most precocial chicks hatch at the same time. That way they can be moved to a safer location and available food. This process delays incubation as the mother lays an egg each day and starts sitting on them when laying is completed. Predation is always possible during this time. On the other hand the female may start another clutch which is why sometimes very immature young are around late in the summer which greatly reduces their survival chances.

Some altricial birds, including hawks, herons and owls begin incubation with the first egg laid, which results in different sizes and conditions. If food is scarce, the youngest are rarely fed. This form of brood reduction is helped along by the older and larger chicks, whose aggressiveness contributes to the youngsters not being fed. Brood reduction is an advantage for the species in that if an entire brood is fed equally when food is scarce, they might all fledge but be too weak to survive. It is an amazing process to how quickly chicks can grow from total helplessness to fledging. Most of this article material came from professor emeritus Eldon Greiji of Hope College of Holland, Michigan.

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March and April Events

Full moons 3-18 (worm) and 4-16 (pink)

Spring equinox March 20

Great-horned owls have hatched

Northern migration is on the verge

Take time to marvel about the changing season