



# Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

May 2013

Volume 32 Number 5

## NEXT MEETING:

Date: **Monday, May 20, 2013**

Time: **5:45 Pre-meeting Bird Walk  
7 p.m. Program**

Location: **Medford Public Library**

Program: **What is the Birder Certification Program?**

## May Program – Birder Certification Program

Many birders take part in citizen monitoring programs such as Christmas Bird Counts, breeding bird surveys, and owl and nightjar surveys as well as submitting monthly Bird Club checklists. Some use their birding skills professionally. Others might like to know if they are identifying birds accurately.

By improving and documenting birder identification skills, the Birder Certification Online program helps assure that bird inventory and monitoring projects are valid. The program also provides an educational tool for students and recreational birders of all skill levels. The practice tests offer a way to test your skills and learn to identify birds better at the same time. Birders who become certified may even find job opportunities.

We'll explore the website:

[www.birdercertification.org](http://www.birdercertification.org) and also take a look at some of the other tools available online.

Birder Certification Online is a project of the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

## Welcome!

We are very pleased to welcome our new members and those who have rejoined the club. An interest in birds is what brings all of us together, and we enjoy sharing bird stories, sightings, and questions. Whether your idea of a good bird day is sitting on your deck with a cup of coffee in hand to watch the birds at your feeder or you like to head out in the wee hours of the morning for a full day of trying to find a few elusive birds, we're happy to have you with us.

The pre-meeting Bird Walk before our May meeting this Monday should provide good birding. With a bit warmer weather and the leaves just starting to come out, we are likely to see a nice variety of birds. If you have them, bring your binoculars. If you don't, we will have a few extra pairs. We will stroll the River Walk, starting in front of the library at 5:45 p.m.

Hope to see you there!



Birding at McMillan Wildlife Area this spring

Gordy  
Ruesch  
photo

## Recent Events

### International Migratory Bird Day Celebration – Saturday, May 11



Claire Romanak photo



Chris Finkler photo



Cathy Mauer photo

Over 70 people enjoyed the Migratory Bird Day Celebration at Perkinstown. It was great to have many children among our visitors, as well as an Eastern Screech Owl. Bird and wildflower walks, geocaching, a scavenger hunt, a Bird Hurdles obstacle course, and indoor presentations and crafts provided activities for everyone.

We're already discussing ideas for next year's celebration.



Cathy Mauer photo

### Maple Fest – Saturday, April 27

Our display at the Maple Fest, which was held at the Taylor County Fairgrounds, was visited and enjoyed by many of the visitors. Several of our new and rejoining members found us there. Thank you to those who helped at our display.

## Upcoming Events

**Taylor County Outdoor Youth Expo** – May 17 at the Taylor County Fairgrounds. Over 300 5<sup>th</sup> graders are expected. We can still use more volunteers to work at the booth from about 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you would like to work all or part of that time, contact Connie Decker, 715-654-5819, or just show up.

**Western Taylor County Expo** – June 15. This is part of the Gilman June Dairy Days Celebration. We will have a booth and can use help setting up and manning the booth. If you would like to help, contact Claire at 715-257-1905.

## Bird Reports (March 19 – April 15, 2013)

Gayle Davis, Connie Decker, Hildegard and Loretta Kuse, Ken Luepke, Joan and Joe Rickert, Claire Romanak, Cam Scott, Joe Scott, and Ron Shiffler



Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 101

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

- Greater White-fronted Goose (Luepke), Snow Goose, Ross's Goose\* (Luepke), Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Greater Prairie-Chicken (Luepke), Wild Turkey
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Great Blue Heron
- Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk (Romanak), Red-shouldered Hawk (Luepke), Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin (Luepke)
- American Coot
- Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane (Luepke)
- Killdeer
- Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock
- Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull
- Rock Pigeon, Eur. Collared-Dove \*\* (Decker/Luepke), Mourning Dove
- Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl
- Belted Kingfisher
- Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker
- Eastern Phoebe
- Northern Shrike
- Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark
- Tree Swallow
- Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse (Kuse), Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin
- European Starling
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow (J. Scott), Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow (Davis), Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal
- Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird
- Purple Finch, House Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch
- House Sparrow

*The above list is arranged taxonomically and grouped more or less by family, but for space and readability reasons, sometimes several families may be combined. The list covers the time period from one meeting to the next. A printed checklist is available at each meeting or can be found on-line at the Bird Club website. The checklist committee reviews the list each month before the list is printed. In an effort to make the list as accurate as possible, additional information may be sought for unusual or unlikely sightings.*

*Everyone, regardless of skill level, is invited to keep and submit a checklist and also to share interesting sightings and bird behavior at meetings.*

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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](http://www.chequamegonbirdclub.org)  
*Email:* [info@chequamegonbirdclub.org](mailto:info@chequamegonbirdclub.org)  
*Newsletter Email:* [newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org)  
(Cathy Mauer, editor)  
*Bird sightings:* Connie Decker

### May-June Outdoors

- Full moon – May 25
- If you haven't already, it is time to put out hummingbird feeders and oranges and grape jelly for orioles.
- Sandhill Crane, American Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse, Trumpeter Swan and many other birds are hatching
- Nighthawks arrive
- Common Loons begin nesting
- Veeries start singing
- Fireflies appear
- Painted turtles begin laying eggs
- Green frogs start calling



### Bird Apps

#### *Birdtunes*

Carrying a pocketful of bird songs and calls can help identify birds who are hiding in the foliage, as so many do. While most of the bird apps include vocalizations, the songs are found within each species description. Some have a very limited number of sounds for each bird.

As its name implies, *Birdtunes* focusses on bird songs, with one basic photo of the bird in the background. There are multiple tracks for each species, including songs and calls. Birds can be browsed by first name, last name, bird group, or scientific name.

Three versions are available, *Birdtunes Lite* (free), *Birdtunes Basic* (\$1.99), and *Birdtunes Full* (\$9.99), each offering a different number of species.

Available for iPhone, iPod, and iPad.

[www.birdtunesapp.com](http://www.birdtunesapp.com)