



Chequamegon Chirps

Medford, Wisconsin

May 2014

Volume 33 Number 5

NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 19, 2014

7 p.m.

(Bird walk at 6 p.m., meet in front of library.)

Medford Public Library

PROGRAM:

This Spring's Migration and What's Around
Discussion of the Migratory Bird Day Celebration and the Outdoor Youth Event
Upcoming Activities

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration

Children and adults enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at the Perkinstown Sports Area. The week had started with few migrating birds in the woods, but a couple days of south winds ushered them to our area just in time for our celebration. We had almost eighty bird species and about the same number of people.

Early birders started the day with a birding walk at 6 a.m. Those who couldn't get up quite so early were able to take part in walks at 7:30 and 9 a.m. Migrants that were sighted or heard included Swainson's, Hermit, and Wood Thrushes and Clay-colored, Chipping, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows. The warblers were represented by Black-throated Green, Black-and-White, Ovenbird, Tennessee, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Yellow-rumped, Palm, and Common Yellow-throat. Flycatchers included Eastern Phoebe, Least, Great-crested, and Eastern Kingbird. There were also three vireos - Red-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Philadelphia. A full list will be posted on the club website.



Birdwatching started right outside the Sports Area Lodge.

(cont. on p. 2)



Joe Scott photo

Following the walks, Claire Romanak gave information about selecting binoculars - different types, advantages and disadvantages, and what to look for. Binoculars are not only for looking at birds, but also are used for looking at other creatures such as butterflies and other insects. Joan Rickert showed photos she had taken of many local butterflies and discussed their natural histories, including the host plants for the caterpillars and some of the favored nectar plants. This is valuable information to have when selecting plants for our gardens and



Ron Draeger photo

landscaping. And don't forget that insect larvae and adults, including caterpillars and butterflies provide food for birds.

We all enjoyed a delicious lunch (thanks to Connie Decker for preparing it) before some folks boarded the bus for the tour of the Miller Dam area and others stayed at the Sports Area to get some bird identification tips and to learn about bird feeders and houses. Children, and their parents, enjoyed the Bird Hurdles game.



Throughout the day people challenged themselves with a scavenger hunt and geocaching, and children created craft projects.

Highlights of the bus tour included a group of ten or more cormorants, a pelican, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, a Canada Goose incubating a nest, Great Blue Heron, Sandhill Crane, and Horned Grebe. The Schaefers kindly allowed a stop at their home and even furnished cookies and water.

It was a great day. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.

Bird Reports – March 17 - April 21, 2014

Participants this month were Ellen Becker, Gayle Davis, Connie Decker, Ken Luepke, Joe and Joan Rickert, Claire Romanak, Cam Scott, and Joe Scott.

Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 115

- Cackling Goose (Luepke), Greater White-fronted Goose (Decker/Luepke), Snow Goose, Ross's Goose * (Decker/Luepke), Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey
- Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant
- Great Blue Heron, Great Egret
- Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk (Davis/Rickert/J.Scott), Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk (J. Scott), Red-shouldered Hawk (J. Scott), Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel
- American Coot
- Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane (Decker/Luepke/J. Scott)
- Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock
- Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull * (Luepke)
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove
- Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Barred Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl (J. Scott)
- Belted Kingfisher
- Red-headed Woodpecker (Luepke), Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker
- Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher (Romanak)
- Northern Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark
- Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow
- Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin
- Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing
- Black-throated Blue Warbler (Becker (early)), Yellow-rumped Warbler
- American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris's 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, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow

Chequamegon Chirps
N4416 Crane Dr
Medford WI 54451

Officers

President – Claire Romanak
Vice-President – Connie Decker
Secretary – Joe Scott
Treasurer – Cam Scott

Other Club Contacts

Website: chequamegonbirdclub.org
Information: info@chequamegonbirdclub.org
Newsletter: newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org
(Cathy Mauer, editor)
Bird Sightings: Connie Decker

Migratory Bird Day Celebration Thank You to:

- Taylor County Tourism Committee
- Taylor County Sportsman's Club
- Miller Dam Lake Association
- Rustic Garden Metal Works
- Western Taylor County Library (Gilman)
- Mead Wildlife Area
- USDA Forest Service
- County Market
- Kwik Trip
- Nasonville Cheese

and especially to all the volunteers who planned, led walks, baked bars, served food, gave presentations, created activities, and helped in many other ways.

POETRY FOR NATURE LOVERS

This morning (Tuesday) with temperatures back in the thirties, Joan Rickert sent this excerpt from "Knee-Deep in June" by James Whitcomb Riley:

*...and May – I jes'
Bominate its promises,
Little hints o' sunshine and
Green around the timber-land –
A few promises, and a few
Chip-birds, and a sprout er two, –
Drop asleep, and it turns in
'Fore daylight and snows ag'in!*