

# Chequamegon Chirps



Medford, Wisconsin

May, 2015

Volume 34 Number 5

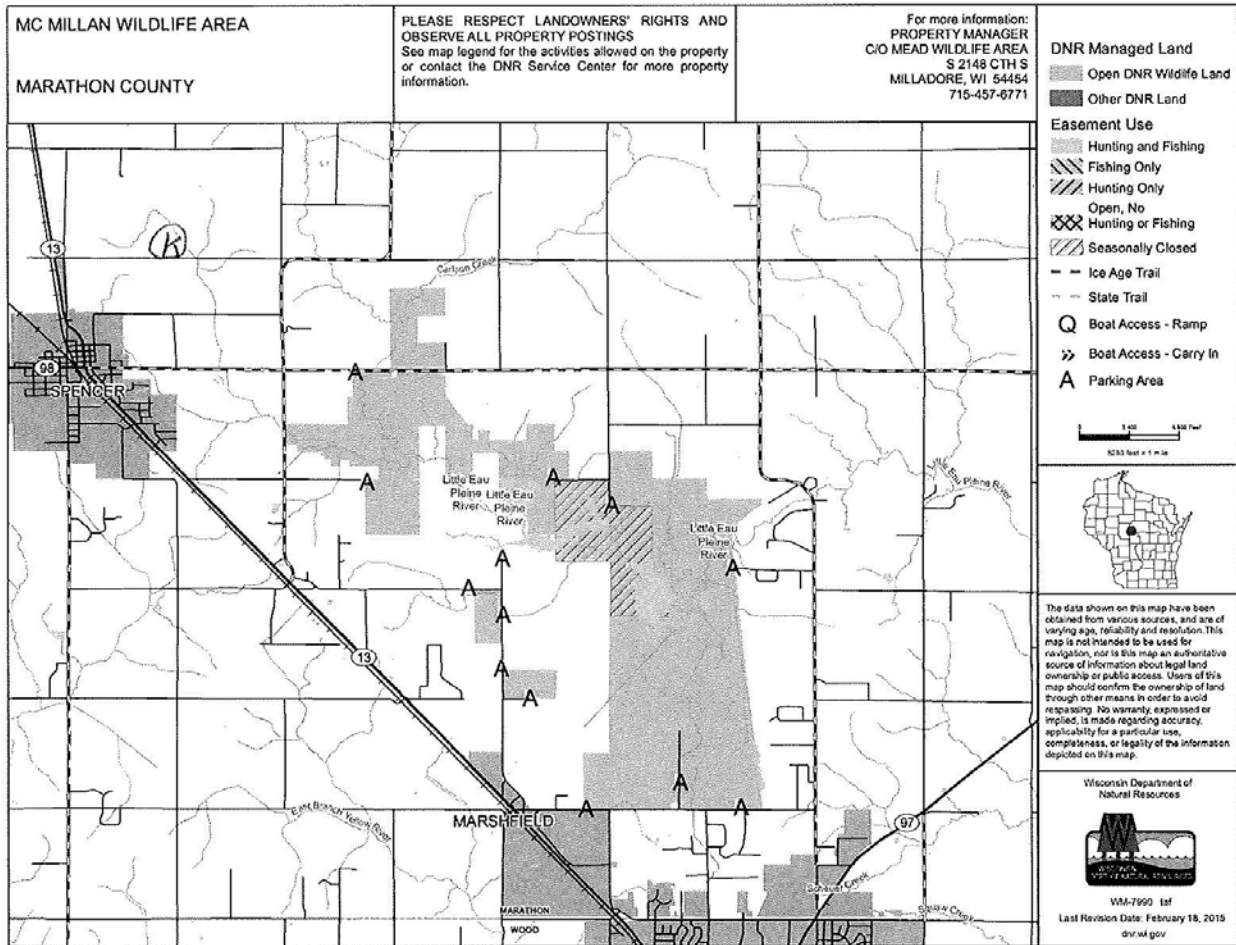
Next meeting: Monday, May 18, 2015

## Please note different time and place for our May meeting

Our regular meeting room isn't available Monday evening which gives us an opportunity to explore a particularly good bird site at that time. The McMillan Wildlife Area is practically a part of Ken's Luepke's backyard and it offers an exceptional variety of wetland birds that he knows as well as anyone. In addition to warblers, black terns and yellow-headed blackbirds are definite possibilities. There might even be a mosquito or two so bug dope is recommended. We will be on roads and you won't need to do much walking if you prefer to stay with your vehicle. Boots might be a good idea, depending on precipitation between now and Monday. This would be an extra good time to invite some friends or family to come along on this excursion. It is an area we drive by on our way to Marshfield and a diverse environment many people aren't aware of.

Be prepared to leave the Medford Library parking lot at 5 pm. We will car pool and stop at the Cenex gas station at Dorchester Corners at 5:20 and the County Market parking lot in Abbotsford at 5:30. Feel free to join the group wherever it is most convenient for you. We will continue south to Ken Luepke's home at 894 Eau Pleine Road. This road is a mile north of Spencer and Ken's place is about a mile east of Highway 13 on the north side of the road.

The McMillan Wildlife Area is about 6,500 acres located within a mile north of Marshfield supervised by the DNR. It is managed for wildlife habitat and public recreation and has been available since 1960. It is open to hunting and trapping. A 5 ½ mile bike trail is open from May through August.



(K) = Ken's place

### Life Birds

The first sighting—or hearing in some cases—of a bird you have never seen before, can be a memorable occasion in your life. I'd be interested in your story about this event and it's something I'd like to share with this newsletter. You can contact me at the return address of this newsletter or e-mail at [jbragg41@hotmail.com](mailto:jbragg41@hotmail.com).

### T-shirts

They are still available and can be purchased from Connie and are a quality product at a reasonable cost that promotes the Chequamegon Bird Club.

## Monthly Sightings

Participants this month are Gayle Davis, Connie Decker, Ken Luepke, Doug and Willa Pledger, Joan and Joe Rickert, Claire Romanak, Cam Scott and Joe Scott.

Total number of species observed this month was 117. A year ago the total was 115 for this time and 54 for last month.

Cackling Goose (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, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Greater Prairie-chicken (Luepke), Wild Turkey, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe (Davis/Luepke/C. Scott/J.Scott), American White Pelican (Romanak), Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk (J. Scott), Red-shouldered Hawk (C.Scott/J.Scott), Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle (Pledger/late), American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon (Luepke), Sora, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane (Decker/Luepke), Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilsons Snipe, American Woodcock, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mouring Dove, Eastern Screech Owl(Decker), Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl (Decker/Luepke), Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird(Pledger/extremely early), 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, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow, European Tree Sparrow.

## International Migration Day summary

The weather was fine and more than 60 people participated in the day's activities. There were more children present this year than in previous years. The live Screech Owl Pam Resech brought was a big hit. Other highlights included a Loon sighting, a Red-shouldered Hawk's nest and 60 Bonaparte's Gulls! As a part of the day's activities, 100 White Pine along with another 100 total of a mix of Eldeberry, Witch Hazel, and Paper Birch were planted to add to the diversity and beauty of the Perkinstown Winter Sports Area. Thank-you and congratulations to all who made this educational event possible.

Editor, Chequamegon Chirps  
3221 Town Hall Road  
Abbotsford, WI 54405

#### Club Contacts

Web site: [www.chequamegonbirdclub.org](http://www.chequamegonbirdclub.org)

E-mail: [info@chequamegonbird.org](mailto:info@chequamegonbird.org)

Newsletter E-mail [newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org)

Bird sightings: [connied1@charter.net](mailto:connied1@charter.net)

A Snowy Owl found dead in mid-April died from H5N2 virus according to Tami Ryan, wildlife health section chief for the DNR. It was near a breakwater on Green Bay in the city of Oconto. There were no nearby poultry operations. This was the first wild bird to test positive for a bird flu strain that has caused the loss of millions of chickens and turkeys on poultry farms in the Midwest. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported the finding was significant because it marked the first time the disease was in Wisconsin outside of a farm.