

Chequamegon Chirps



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Part of last month's zoom session included an election. After the smoke cleared, Ron Dreager is our vice-president, Scott Stalheim secretary and Betty Danen, treasurer who replaced Cam Scott after many years of dedicated service. Joe, who swore off presidential responsibilities, agreed to continue as a pseudo president as long as others do the necessary duties. That keeps us legal as a club and enables Joe to continue his quest to become the world's longest job holder. There has been recent publicity about Walter, a Brazilian who is now the Guinness record holder for job longevity in his 82nd year of a job he started when he was 18. Joe will need a few more years to pass Walter who is still going to work every day.

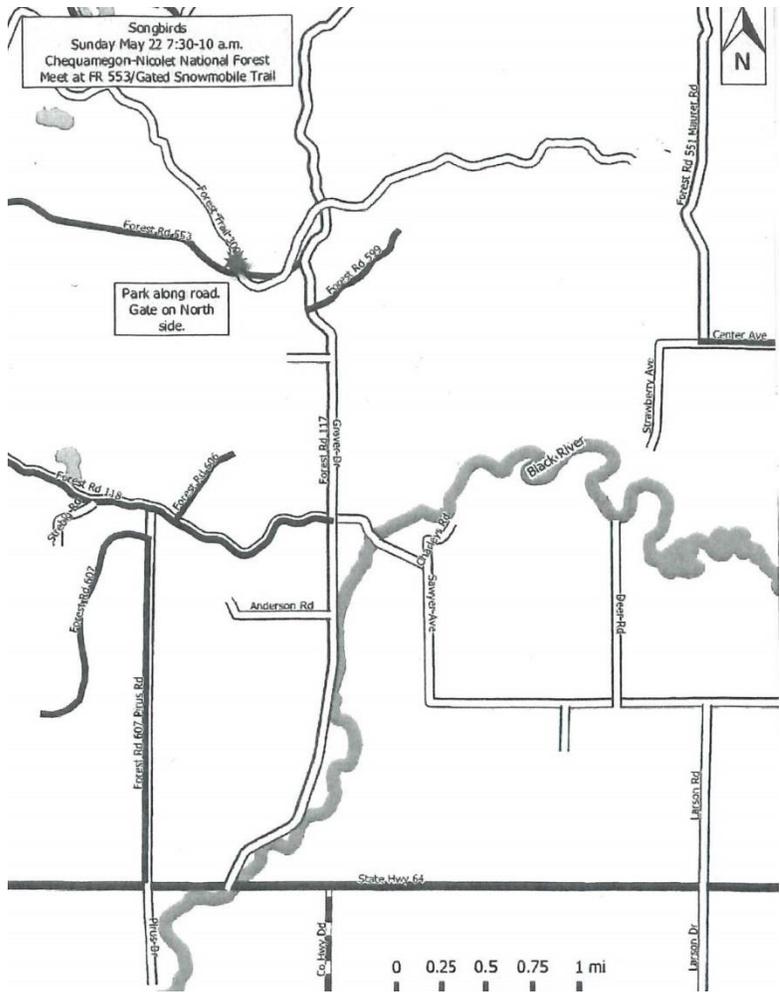
Two field trips results and one more coming up

Since the last zoom meeting there have been two gatherings/field trips on April 23 and May 1 with a third one scheduled this coming Sunday morning, May 22. Each of these trips has had a distinct theme for different species. Weather, a determining factor in the success of any field trip has cooperated so far. The April evening session was our first really warm day which brought out a few foolhardy mosquitoes which promptly froze in the following days. The highlights of the woods walk and campfire afterwards was a barred owl, a pair of kingfishers and frogs. I had dropped out of the walking group as I found a comfortable place to sit where I could listen to the quiet. After a while I could hear sounds off to my right by trees in a wet area. As the sounds increased I couldn't spot any movement at all in the trees as looked over the area with my binoculars. It took a while, but I finally figured out that the reason I wasn't seeing any movement in the trees was because I was hearing

frogs, not birds. I have never been good at identifying birds by sound and now my hearing has significantly declined. It can be embarrassing and frustrating, but I still enjoy what I can hear.

The May 1 afternoon session for waterfowl at the Miller Dam area was on a raw and intermittently wet day which didn't hamper seeing geese, ducks, trumpeter swans, mergansers, loons and a diving osprey among the 42 species recorded. Nearly 20 people were part of our group and I'm always impressed how species recorded increases as the group numbers increase. It is a case of more eyes and ears, regardless of their birding ability, help to spot different birds who can be identified by others. It is also one of the best learning opportunities available to identification knowledge while being around more knowledgeable birders.

The May 22 session will gather at a spot about eleven miles west of Medford, then north of 64 on Grover Rd and west on fire road 553 from 7:30 to 10:00 A.M. on Sunday, May 22. This is in the Chequamegon Forest and, with reasonable weather, we should be able to hear and see 50+ species of forest songbirds including (we hope) warblers.



Springtime Happenings

While I'm sure there are many other Chirp worthy spring bird stories members have had recently, here are few that that I've learned from phone calls. Sue Vick went out to one of the Buena Vista blinds to observe prairie chicken activity on their dancing grounds known as leks. A marsh is a cold and dark place at 4:15 A.M. until males started to announce their arrival with low, hooting moans. Soon they appeared to start their displays which included stutter stepping, inflating yellow-orange neck sacs and defending their territory in mostly mock fights. Sue's group got to see 21 males and three females, some within five feet of them!

We've had wacky weather this spring. Even more so than usual, it seems. Maybe that has had something to do with the remarkable numbers of warbler species that Cathy Mauer saw and got great photos of that she posted on the Chequamegon site. She has a small wet area near her house a few miles northeast of Medford which provided a lifetime memory of a warbler "fallout" where many species are in the same place at the same time. Here is a partial list of what she recorded: northern waterthrush, Cape May, Tennessee, Nashville, chestnut-sided, black-and-white, golden-winged, common yellowthroat, American redstart, northern parula, magnolia, blackburnian, palm, yellow rumped, black-throated-green and ovenbird. Ron and Randy Draeger had a similar experience when they were hiking on the Ice Age Trail near St. Croix Falls. They recorded 28 new yearly species, 19 of which were warblers.

Eggs in everyday expressions

Since it is the egg laying season, here are some common sayings that have the word egg in them. Answers on page four. 1—Savings for the future. 2—Our performance was awful. 3— Spread out your risk in more than one place. 4—A highly educated person. 5—What's done is done. 6—A nice person. 7—We don't which event caused the other.

editor

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Club contacts

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May and June events

Full Moons May 16 Flower moon & eclipse

June 14 Strawberry Moon

A really informative program on 20.2

At 7 PM Tuesday May, 16 The Egg:

Life's Perfect invention

Long days produce prodigious plant growth.

1. Nest egg

2. We laid an egg

3. Don't put all your eggs in one basket

4. Egghead

5. You can't unscramble eggs

6. Good egg

7. I got egg on my face