



Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

October 2013

Volume 32 Number 10

ANNUAL BANQUET

Date: **Monday, October 21, 2013**

Time: **5:00 p.m. Pre-meeting Bird Walk
along the Riverwalk (meet at
Marilyn's Catering)**

6:00 p.m. Meeting

6:15 p.m. Dinner

Location: **Marilyn's Catering**
157 S. Whelen Ave, Medford

Program: **"Winter Bird Ecology"**
John Bates
Wisconsin Naturalist and Author



Annual Banquet

There is still time to make your reservation. The menu features Baked Salmon and Chicken Breasts. See complete menu in the September *Chirps*.

The price is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 14 and younger.

Call Cathy Mauer (715-748-3160) by Friday, October 11 to guarantee your reservation.

We will be raffling a squirrel-resistant bird feeder station with post, baffle, hangers, and feeders and have some nice door prizes, as well.

John Bates is both an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker and his presentation should be enjoyed by all.

Bird Club Nests in Downtown Medford for Annual Banquet

by *Earl Finkler*

The annual Chequamegon bird club banquet is coming up soon, and it will be at a new place this year ---in the heart of downtown Medford. It will be held the evening of Monday, October 21 at Marilyn's Go Go Catering in the former Medford Fire Department building at 157 S Whelen Ave.

Besides a number of birds along the river and river walk, this area is part of the active downtown. Our Greenland Husky Avu and I walk it every morning, usually starting at the Cooperative Tire Shop just across from Marilyn's.

After that we can wave to Marilyn and her staff, and then various stops from legal to coffee, greeting cards, dog-eared books and a variety of other places. Right around the corner from Marilyn's, there is a nice free book exchange at the edge of the sidewalk. Take a book or put one in --or both.



Owner Marilyn Frank said she's been downtown for two years now. "It's a good place to be," she said with her ever-present smile. We like to help keep downtown vibrant," she said.

So don't miss the big bird club dinner at Marilyn's -- downtown!

A good place to roost!!!

Protecting Birds from Hitting Windows - Again

Birds hitting windows happens year around, unfortunately, but migration periods are peak times. Also, with many people feeding in the winter or adding additional feeders in the winter, there are often more birds in close proximity to our houses, resulting in more window strikes. Several methods have been suggested to reduce the chances of a bird hitting a window; some seem more efficacious than others. Placing silhouettes of hawks on windows was once suggested, but this results in minor improvements at best. Regardless of what one puts on the windows, the key seems to be to have the items close together, no more than 4" apart horizontally and 2" apart vertically. The shape doesn't really matter.

One new method that is proving helpful in early tests is to hang parachute cord (1/8" diameter) vertically on the outside of the window, spaced 4" - 4 1/4" apart. The cords do not need to be fastened at the bottom, and they do not need to go all the way to the bottom of the window, probably within 3" is fine.

For more information on this method go to www.birdsavers.com and read this article www.birdwatchingdaily.com/blog/2013/09/10/field-tests-show-parachute-cords-deter-bird-window-collisions . To find out about other effective methods,



Photo courtesy of Acopian BirdSavers website

some of which I've covered in past *Chirps*, go to www.birdwatchingdaily.com/featured-stories/15-products-that-prevent-windows-strikes .

Both increased use of existing methods and new technologies, including new types of glass and better building design, can contribute to a reduction in the millions (?billions) that die each year in the United States alone by flying into windows.

Old Books (continued from page 4)

information given has since been discredited as new studies have discovered new information. It doesn't really matter to the enjoyment of reading the book, as long as one takes some of the information with a grain of salt. Here are a few tidbits that caught my eye:

- Grebes eat their own feathers and "more than half the contents of the stomach may consist of a ball of macerated feathers. These are even fed to the young."
- Swans necks are longer than their bodies.
- Redstarts and Wilson's Black-cap are examples of warblers that "secure much of their food on the wing and were formerly called Flycatching Warblers."
- Solitary Sandpipers lay their eggs in "deserted nests of Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Grackles, Canada Jays, Kingbirds and Brewer's Blackbirds, which were from four to forty feet above the ground and usually near lakes and ponds."



American Woodcock by W.J. Breckenridge (after Fuyertes)



Bird Reports (August 20 – September 23, 2013)

Checklist observers: *Gayle Davis, Connie Decker, Hildegard and Loretta Kuse, Ken Luepke, Claire Romanal*

Total number of species observed this month: 143

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

- Canada Goose, Mute Swan (Romanak), Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal , Northern Shoveler , Green-winged Teal , Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey
- Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant
- Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron
- Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk (Luepke / C. Scott), Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin (Luepke)
- Virginia Rail, Sora, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane (Luepke)
- American Golden Plover (Decker / Luepke), Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock
- Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove
- Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl (Romanak)
- Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher
- Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker
- Olive-sided Flycatcher (Luepke), Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (Luepke), Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird
- Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo
- Gray Jay (Davis), Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark
- Tree Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow
- Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper
- House Wren, Winter Wren, Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin
- Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing
- Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black and White Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Connecticut Warbler (Luepke), Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Scarlet Tanager
- Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting
- Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Oriole
- Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow

Articles, Stories, Reviews, and Photos Wanted: The *Chirps* does not create itself and everyone's input is welcome and wanted. You can contribute a review of a bird book that you like or dislike, a story about a bird that has visited your yard, an article about a bird species that you find interesting, a photo that you took, or any other bird-related item. Articles and photos can be emailed to newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org or can be handwritten or typed and given or mailed to me (Cathy Mauer). Other ideas: bird-related websites that you find useful or fascinating, birding apps that you like, bird poems that you enjoy or have written, newspaper or magazine articles that you have read,



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«FIRST_NAME» «LAST_NAME»
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Club Officers

President – Claire Romanak
Vice-president – Connie Decker
Secretary – Gayle Davis
Treasurer – Cam Scott

Other Club Contacts

Web site: www.chequamegonbirdclub.org
Email: info@chequamegonbirdclub.org
Newsletter Email: newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org
 (Cathy Mauer, editor)
Bird sightings: Connie Decker

October - November Outdoors

- October 18, November – Full moon
- October 21 – Ding Darling’s birthday
- October 27 – Teddy Roosevelt’s birthday
- Red-winged Blackbirds gather to head south
- White-tailed deer bucks begin rut
- White-throated sparrows head
- Many waterfowl at peak migration
- Black bears begin to den.
- Buckthorn leaves still green – this is a good time to spot them and control them by cutting and spraying with herbicide.
- Last of Sandhill Cranes migrate south.



Birder’s Bookshelf

Old Books

Old books of any kind fascinate me, and old books about birds, whether field guides or natural histories or stories about birding, are no exception. As we were going through books to take to the library book sale, a few bird books were unearthed. Most went into the “keep” pile.

Bird Portraits in Color with text by Tomas Sadler Roberts was published in 1934 by the University of Minnesota Press. The paintings, which are by various artists, were published in 1932 or 1931 in *The Birds of Minnesota*, but the text is new. Each painting is a full page (8.5” x 11”). The text for the featured species is on the facing page and covers the natural history and a description of the birds and some of their habits. I wouldn’t be surprised if some of the

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