

Chequamegon Chirps



Medford, Wisconsin

October, 2015

Volume 34 Number 10

Date: Monday, October 19, 2015

Time: 7:00

Location: Medford Public Library

Program: Gordon and Cathy with pictures and tales
from time spent in Alaska this past summer

There are some leftovers from the sale of things from the Bird Club's table at the Farmer's Market this recent Saturday. If you would like to bring other plants or some such product to the meeting to sell--whose profits will go to the club treasury--you are welcome to bring them as long as they aren't too messy or bulky since we are guests of the library.

The banquet will be November 9 this year with speaker Carly Lapin who works with the DNR in Buena Vista. Her presentation will be about her research on Connecticut Warblers. This won't make the little buggers easier to spot, but will give interesting information about this secretive bird of the Genus Oporornis.

Some final banquet details aren't yet in place and will be announced at the meeting, e-mailed to you or by mail when they are finalized.

Ken Luepke recently hosted a visit to the marsh-pond area near his house by some ten club members. The session, which included a bonfire, was highlighted by the evening arrival of more than 500 Sandhill Cranes. Ken, with government funds, established this twelve acre wetland area more than ten year ago. It has become a Mecca for area waterfowl. Before the Cranes became more numerous, 3,000 to 5,000 Canada Geese made use of this area. Now those numbers have declined to several hundred as area Sandhills have made this one of their main night spots when they are here. One hundred or more unpaired or bachelor Sandhill Cranes roost here at night during the summer and that number will swell to more than 700 when pairs bring their chicks with them in later August and then are joined by resting migrants. They will continue to use this spot for nightly roosting until they migrate south, generally within several days of Thanksgiving. They depart as a group as winter comes on and then the marsh will be quiet until their haunting calls return to signal the arrival of another spring. It is an impressive sight that is definitely worth a visit.

Ken worked with various government agencies to establish this wetland. It took some of his producing farmland out of production, but he has never regretted the decision. Now he has exotic visitors in impressive numbers to his farm that few people get to experience on such a close up and personal level. This area will continue as a wetland area regardless of by whom it is owned. It is a treasure for birds and lovers of birds and conservation. It is a valuable gift that we and future generations can enjoy and appreciate. Wealth is not always measured in dollars and cents. Thank-you Ken.

CBC MONTHLY SIGHTINGS REPORT

Check list species and observers for September, 2015---136

2014 sightings for same period--126

Observers: Connie Decker, Ken Luepke, Doug and Willa Pledger, Joe and Joan Rickert, Cam Scott

Rare or unusual sightings are followed by the name(s) of the observers

==Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Wood Duck, American Widgeon, Mallard, Blue-Winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-Winged Teal, Hooded Merganser

==Ringed-neck Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey

==Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron (Luepke),

==Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk (Pledger), Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin (Decker/Luepke), Peregrine Falcon(Decker/Luepke)

==Sora, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane (Luepke), Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Decker/Luepke), Wilson's Snipe, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull

==Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl

==Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher

==Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker

==Eastern Wood-pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow (Romanak), Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Verry, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing

==Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler,

Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush,
Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler

==Chipping Sparrow, Lark Sparrow (Decker/Luepke), Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Song Sparrow,

Lincoln Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow (Luepke), Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco

==Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Pine Siskin,

Eastern Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Oriole,

Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Finch.

Migration Mysteries and Marvels

Fall migration is strongly evident now as different species are arriving or departing on an almost daily basis. In addition to the pleasure of seeing these rapid changes at our feeders, with travel or along our favorite strolls, a question comes to mind. "How the heck do they get where they are going?" This conundrum has puzzled and led to much thought by both laymen and scientists. An article in the August 1979 issue of the National Geographic had information and some speculation about this phenomenon. Migrants are believed to steer their way with the help of the sun, in conjunction with the time of day, and star patterns at night. Other aides may be ultraviolet and polarized light assisted by low-frequency sounds that can come from distant surfs. Direction guides can be from magnetic fields in combination with gravity. In addition to these resources, migrants are excellent weather forecasters and take advantage of favorable passing fronts to aid their travel. All in all, their travel skills are something for us mere humans to marvel. Personally, I can get completely turned around in a different town and have a devil of a time finding my car in a large parking lot where I left it only an hour earlier.

Dr. Stephen T. Emlen, a professor at Cornell University and leader in avian research, said "Birds are not living in the same sensory world we live in. They are hearing, seeing, and sensing a world expanded from ours." Bits and pieces of this article came from research and current data that is now more than 35 old, so much more critical information, and reams of data have since been collected. But the beauty of how our personal knowledge gets stretched remains as wonderful as ever.

The flitting of Warblers through front yard bushes or the distant honking of Canada Geese on a moonlit night stirs some deep within my soul as it has done for people forever. And as with any interesting subject, additional information leads to more and more questions and areas to study. It is a case of the more we learn, the more we realize additional study leads to more and more unknowns and yet unanswered questions. Rather than frustration, it provides each one of us more opportunities to wonder and marvel at the intricacies and absolute miracles contained within each migrating bird.

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Don't forget about the Birds In Art exhibit at the
Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum until November 29

Full moon October 28

REGI can use frozen deer hearts to feed rehabbing Eagles

White-tailed deer will soon be in the rut. Drive alertly

Black bears are fattening up before getting ready to den

Enjoy bright leaf color before white becomes prevalent



Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or
3 for \$5