



# Chequamegon Chirps

## Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

September 2007

Volume 26 Number 9

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Date:** Monday, September 17, 2007

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Medford Public Library  
400 N. Main St.  
Medford

**Program:** Birds, Birds, Birds  
*See page 3*

**Food:** Doug and Willa Pledger  
Eleanor Kratzat

Please bring your own cup or mug for beverage.



### **OTHER COMING EVENTS:**

#### **OPERATION MIGRATION**

**Sunday, September 23, 2007**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Medford Area High School**

*See page 2*

#### **THE BIG SIT**

**Sunday, October 14, 2007**

*A Sedentary Birding Event*

*See page 2*

#### **ANNUAL BANQUET:**

***See below***

### **Chequamegon Bird Club**

## ***Annual Banquet ~ October 15, 2007***



**Dorchester Village Hall - 188 South 2nd St.**

**6:00 p.m. – Get-together**

**6:30 p.m. – Dinner served**

**Speaker: *Noel Cutright***

**"The Breeding Bird Atlas Project"**

**Tickets: \$12**

**Absolute Ticket Deadline: Oct. 5th!**

*Tickets will be available at the September meeting or  
send payment to:*

BERNICE GOKEY  
504 N 4TH  
COLBY WI 54425

Make check payable to: Chequamegon Bird Club

Noel Cutright is an editor of the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas and is a past president of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

### **MENU:**

- Chicken w/ dressing, Swiss steak
- Mashed potatoes w/ gravy
- Peas and carrots
- Coleslaw
- Dinner rolls
- Dessert
- Coffee/milk

***Guests are welcome!***

## Operation Migration



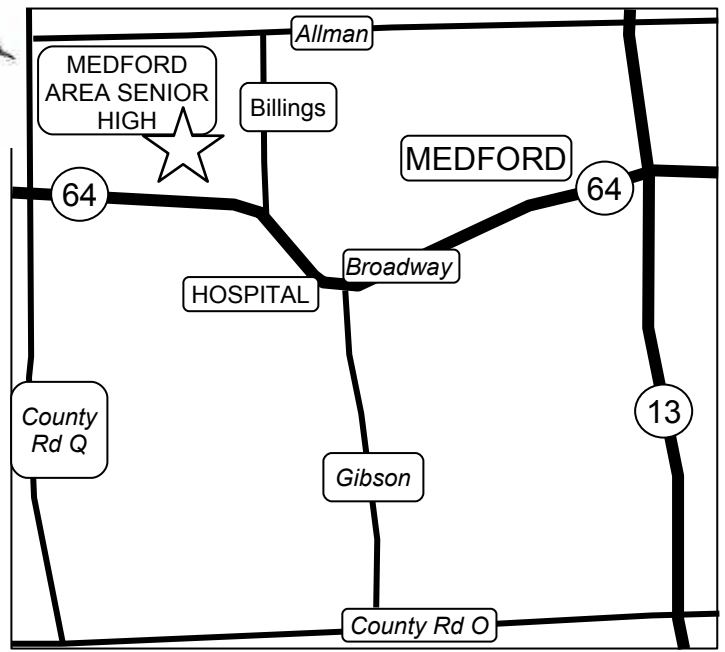
**The Chequamegon Bird Club** will again be co-hosting Joe Duff of Operation Migration for a presentation on the whooping crane ultralight-guided migration. Operation Migration has played a very important role in the whooping crane recovery effort. The program experienced a disheartening setback last year with the loss of the whole 2006 cohort of young cranes. Come to this program for an update and find out how the 2007 cranes are doing.

**DATE: Sunday, September 23, 2007**

**TIME: 7:00 p.m.**

**LOCATION: Red/ White Theater  
Medford Area Senior High**

*Free and Open to the Public*



## The 2007 BIG SIT!™

The 13th annual Big Sit!\* will take place on Sunday, October 14, 2007. Remember, this FREE EVENT is open to every person and club in any country! – *editor Bill Thompson, III*. SEE Bird Watcher's Digest Website for details [www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)

The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest and founded by the New Haven (CT) Bird Club. Every team that observes this year's "Golden Bird" has a chance to win \$500. We hope bird watchers from around the globe will unite on this special day by participating in this event (it's free!). The Big Sit! is sponsored by Swarovski Optik, Alpen Optics, and Wild Bird Centers.

Some people have called it a "tailgate party for birders." Today there are Big Sit! circles all over the world...

The simplicity of the concept makes The Big Sit! so appealing. Find a good spot for bird watching -- preferably one with good views of a variety of habitats and lots of birds. Next you create a real or imaginary circle 17 feet in diameter and team members sit inside the circle for 24 hours, counting all the bird species seen or heard. That's it. Find a spot, sit in it, have fun.

**THE BIG SIT!** is like a Big Day, or a bird-a-thon in that the object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within 24 hours. The difference lies in the area limitation from which you can observe. **THIS FREE EVENT is OPEN to every person and club in any country!**

**Although The Big Sit! is a non-competitive birding event, there are three basic categories in which teams can "win":**

**Best Overall Count** (Most species seen by a single circle - you win Big Sit "braggin' rights")

**Best State Count** (Highest combined total from circles within a state - you win State "braggin' rights")

**The Big Prize!:** Swarovski Optik is offering \$500 to the circle who finds the "Golden Bird". What is the "Golden Bird"? See the Bird Watcher's Digest website

**Raise Money For Your Club!**

In past years, *BWD* encouraged bird clubs to use The Big Sit! as a fundraiser, by organizing a Big Sit team and collecting pledges for each species they tallied.\* For example, if 20 club members pledged \$0.20 per species and the team tallies 50 species during The Big Sit! That means the team could generate \$200 for a special club project.



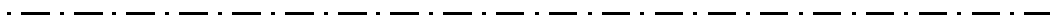
## **Bird Reports (July – August 2007)**

---

Checklist observers: *Gayle Davis , Connie Decker , Hildegard and Loretta Kuse , Ken Luepke ,  
Doug and Willa Pledger , Greg and Cam Scott*

Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 139

Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead (Luepke (very unusual)), Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser (Davis (extremely unusual ))  
Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey  
Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron  
Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin (Davis)  
Virginia Rail (Luepke), Sora, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane (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  
Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Black Tern  
Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Eastern Screech-Owl (Luepke), Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl  
Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will (Davis), Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker (Davis), Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker  
Olive-sided Flycatcher (Luepke), Eastern Wood-Pewee, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven  
Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow  
Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing  
Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Black and White Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager  
Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Bobolink  
Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird (Luepke), Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Oriole  
Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow



## **September Program: Birds, Birds, Birds**

---

Come prepared to share your favorite bird stories from this year and ask your bird questions:

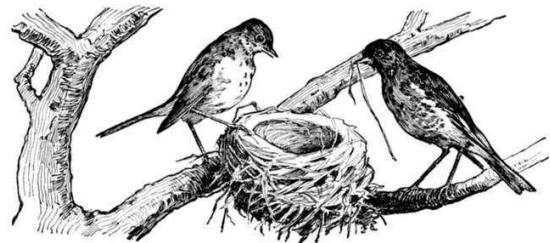
*What birds have nested on your property?*

*What interesting bird behavior have you seen?*

*Did you see a purple-checked flycatcher?*

*Why are goldfinches nesting in August?*

We will also sell banquet tickets, discuss the upcoming Operation Migration program, and get your ideas for programs and field trips.





**Editor, Chequamegon Chirps**  
**N4416 Crane Dr.**  
**Medford WI 54451-9376**

**Club Officers 2006-2007**

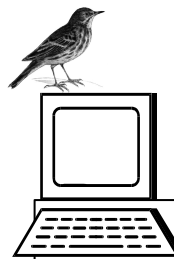
- President* – Gayle Davis
- Vice-president* – Connie Decker
- Secretary* – Hildegard Kuse
- Treasurer* – Bernice Gokey

**Other Club Contacts**

- Web site: [www.sws-wis.com/cbc](http://www.sws-wis.com/cbc)
- Email: [info@chequamegonbirdclub.org](mailto:info@chequamegonbirdclub.org)
- Newsletter Email: [newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org)
- Bird sightings: Connie Decker

**September – October Outdoors**

- September 23 – Autumnal equinox
- September 26 – Full moon
- Leaves turning colors
- Little brown bats depart
- First frost of the season
- White-tail bucks making scrapes and rubs
- Frogs begin borrowing into mud for the winter
- Wood ducks migrate
- Last eastern phoebe sighting of the year
- Red-winged blackbirds gather for migration



**Naturalist’s Resources**

**Website: ... Free Your Imagination ...**

Located at <http://zaxy.wordpress.com/>

I ran across this interesting website as I was looking for a photo for this issue of the *Chirps*. This quote from the website explains what it is about:

**“Positive Change via Positive News** *This site brings together just a few of the hundreds and hundreds of new species discovered since the year 2000. Hopefully, it will inspire us to see the world as a place still being explored, and give us the courage to conserve and protect the fragile, shrinking areas of habitat left on Earth... areas which, as we see here, contain creatures we haven't even yet Imagined...*”

The site covers fauna and flora, living as well as fossils. It summarizes articles from many sources and includes a photo for most articles.