

Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

September 2009

Volume 28 Number 9

NEXT MEETING:

Date: Monday, September 21, 2009

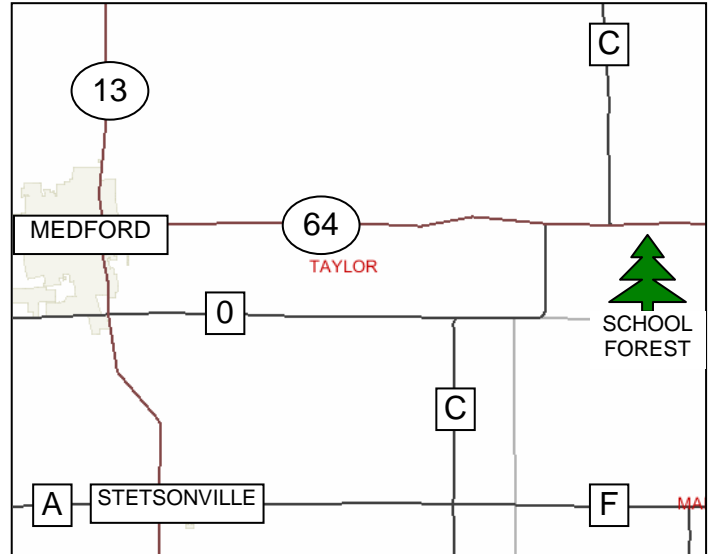
Time: 6:15 p.m. Bird and Nature Walk
(Come earlier if you would like to explore on your own.)
7:00 p.m. Meeting

Location: Medford School Forest
About 9 miles east of Medford on Hwy. 64, just east of County Rd C North. The School Forest is on the south side of Hwy. 64. Watch for the colorful sign.

Program: History of the School Forest
Tracy Swedlund

Refreshments: Joan Rickert & Chris Finkler

Bring a mug for beverages



ANNUAL BANQUET – SUNDAY, October 18

El Norteño

318 Plaza Drive

Curtiss WI

Just north of Hwy 29 off County Rd E.

GET-TOGETHER 5:00 p.m.

DINNER..... 5:30 p.m.

MENU

Chicken, ham

Mashed potatoes and gravy

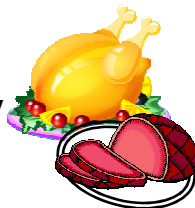
Stuffing

California medley

Rolls

Beverage

Dessert



PROGRAM

Steve Betchkal, author of "All of This and Robins Too: A Guide to the 50 or So Best Places to Find Birds in Wisconsin," will speak about Birding by Ear.

Steve will have books available for purchase and will be signing books.

\$14.00 per person

Send reservation to:

Cam Scott

N3566 Grover Dr

Withee WI 54498

by October 12.

Those Secretive Rails

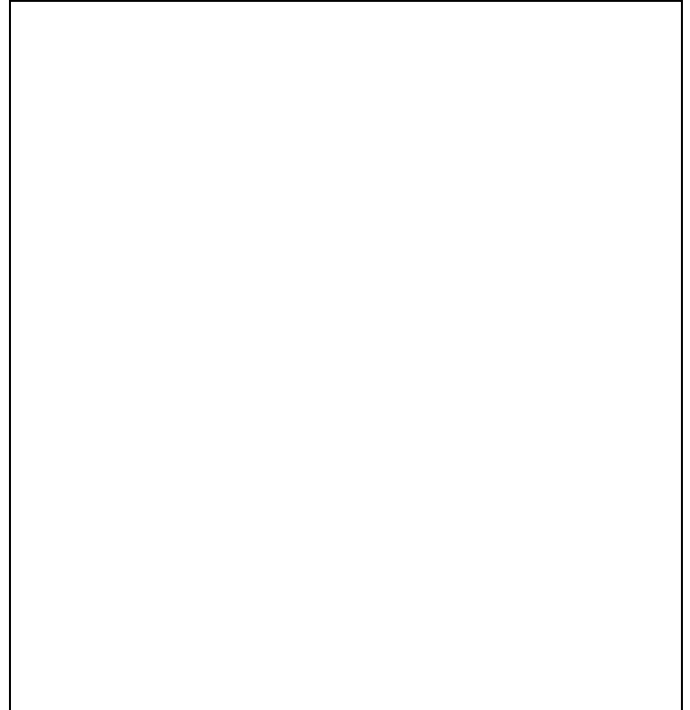
While gathering wild rice this past Sunday, Claire and I flushed a fair number of Soras, one of those secretive birds of the Rail and Coot family. Though found in many marshy or swampy areas, they hide in the vegetation and are more often heard than seen. Four species of Rails occur in Wisconsin, but two of those, the Yellow and the King, are uncommon.

Soras are widespread throughout much of North America, from Alaska to Newfoundland and south to southern California, New Mexico, Missouri, and Maryland. They winter in the southern U.S. and south to the northern part of South America.

Their brownish grey coloration and their habit of hiding makes them hard to see, though once in awhile one will remain in the open long enough to get a good look or a good photo. They have a somewhat short yellow beak. Their distinctive whinny call, made up of short descending 'dee' notes, gives them away even if you can't see them.

They are 8"-10" long. The males and females look the same. Seeds and small invertebrates such as insects, mollusks, and snails make up most of their diet. They usually lay ten to twelve eggs in a basket-like nest built of cattails, dry grasses, and reeds and hung in dense marsh vegetation. Both parents incubate the eggs. The young leave the nest within a day of hatching and are fed by their parents.

The Virginia Rail is similar in color but has a longer dark-colored beak and is larger.



Stop Bird Collisions with FREE Window Clings - Extended

The previous offer was very popular and has been extended. Get 8 FREE (\$2.50 postage and handling) WindowAlert static window clings for your home or office from the Wisconsin Humane Society's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Up to one billion birds die every year in North America due to window collisions, but we can help prevent their deaths by applying simple clings to our windows! This initiative to save wild birds is made possible by the generosity of the Rusinow Family Foundation. Fall migration begins in mid-August and continues into November, so get your clings now to save birds heading south for winter. Go to their website: www.wihumane.org/wildlife/default.aspx. Additional clings may also be ordered.



Bird Reports (July – August 2009)

Checklist observers: Connie Decker , Dennis Larson , Ken Luepke , Cathy Mauer and Gordy Ruesch , Doug and Willa Pledger , Claire Romanak , Cam Scott

Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 131

- Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan (Decker / Luepke), Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal , Green-winged Teal , Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey
- Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican (Luepke), Double-crested Cormorant
- American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black-Crowned Night Heron (Luepke)
- Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk (Mauer/Ruesch), Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk (Decker/Luepke (extremely early)), American Kestrel
- Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane (Decker / Luepke)
- Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock
- Ring-billed Gull, Black Tern
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove
- Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl
- 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, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great-Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, 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, Brown Creeper
- 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, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black and White Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat
- Scarlet Tanager
- Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow (Luepke), Song Sparrow, Swamp 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, Evening Grosbeak (Pledger), House Sparrow

SUNFLOWER SEED SALE

\$14.00 for 50# (tax exempt)

Compare & save – remember that most stores are now selling sunflower seed in 40# bags

- locally grown
- order for friends & relatives
- pick up at March Bird Club meeting



**Call Connie by Monday noon to order.
654- 5819**

Fundraiser - Bird Club makes \$2/bag.



«FIRST_NAME» «LAST_NAME» & «ADDITIONAL_NAME»
«STREET_ADDRESS»
«CITY» «STATE» «ZIP_CODE»

Club Officers 2009-2010

President – Claire Romanak

Vice-president – Connie Decker

Secretary – Hildegard Kuse

Treasurer – Cam Scott

Other Club Contacts

Web site: www.chequamegonbirdclub.org

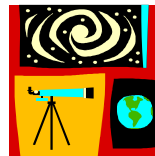
Email: info@chequamegonbirdclub.org

Newsletter Email: newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org

Bird sightings: Connie Decker

September – October Outdoors

- Trumpeter swan cygnets learn to fly
- Autumnal equinox – September 22
- Whooping cranes begin migrating
- Leaves turn color
- October 4 – Full (Hunter's) Moon
- Little brown bats depart
- White-tailed bucks make scrapes and rubs
- Frogs begin burrowing into mud



Nature Corner

While this spot is usually reserved for reviews of bird-related books or websites, there are occasionally other nature-related subjects that attract the editor's attention. The Galileoscope is one of these. For \$20 plus shipping, you can purchase one of these telescopes, which are suitable for those who would like a basic scope to see better views of the moon and planets such as Jupiter and Saturn. The reviews of the scope are quite good.

The scope is part of a project to introduce more people to astronomy, and for \$15 you can donate a scope for their project that gives to groups throughout the world.

The scopes come unassembled, but assembly takes less than fifteen minutes and is part of the educational process. A tripod is needed; any common tripod mount will work with the scope.

Go to www.galileoscope.org for more information.