
Chequamegon Chirps



Medford, Wisconsin

September 2014

Volume 33 Number 9

SEPTEMBER MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 - NOTE DAY

Medford Library

7 p.m. - Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Mike Riggle, one of the five Taylor County delegates to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, will talk about how the Conservation Congress works and how it influences legislation and regulations affecting fishing, wildlife, environmental concerns, and **birds**.

Understanding the workings of the Conservation Congress can enable all of us to be more effective in protecting birds and bird habitat.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

OUR SEPTEMBER
MEETING IS
TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 16

(rather than the usual Monday meeting)

ANNUAL BANQUET - MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

PLACE: Multi-purpose Room, Taylor County Fairgrounds (NE Corner of State Highways 13 and 64 in Medford).

TIME: Dinner at 6:30 p.m. with time to visit and socialize starting at 6 p.m.

MENU: Pork Tenderloin ~ Pesto Mozzarella Chicken Rolls
Butter Glazed Carrots ~ Green Beans ~ Pasta Veggie Salad
Dinner Rolls ~ Milk ~ Coffee ~ Dessert

COST: \$15 Tickets available at September meeting or from Cam Scott, N3566 Grover Dr, Withee WI 54498
Make check payable to: *Chequamegon Bird Club*. Reservation deadline: *Monday, October 13*.
For more information call Cathy (715-748-3160) or Cam (715-785-7614)

• Metal bird sculpture raffle
• Door prizes

Bird Conservation

GUEST SPEAKER: **Ryan Stockwell, Agriculture Program Manager for the National Wildlife Federation**

In his role as Agriculture Manager for NWF, Ryan provides outreach, education, and policy analysis on the agriculture team of NWF, working in Washington, D.C., to inform policy makers about concerns connected to the impact of legislation, regulations, and agricultural practices on wildlife, including birds. Ryan also farms in central Wisconsin and has first-hand experience with using conservation practices such as cover crops and no-till to benefit grassland birds such as Meadowlarks and Dickcissels, as well as other wildlife. Ryan will describe what is being done and what can be done to encourage more farmers and others to practice conservation on their land and also discuss some of the problems faced by conservation programs.

The Heritage Trail:

A Hidden Gem of a Nature and Birding Trail in Stratford

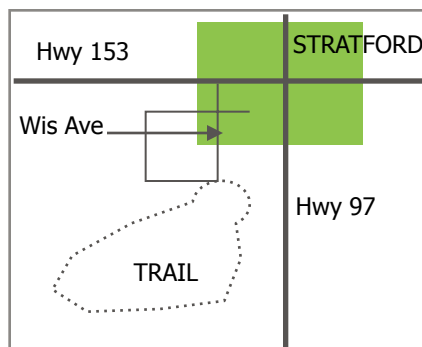
Found on the edge of Stratford, this two-mile loop trail circles through a 73-acre conservancy area. Along the way, if you go counter-clockwise, it passes a large pond, heads through a field/shrub area and passes a second pond, traverses a boardwalk across a wetland, and winds through a wooded area with many large trees before the first pond is once again in view. With the diversity of habitat, a diverse variety of plant, insect, and bird species can be expected.



Viceroy butterfly on Boneset along the Heritage Trail
Cathy Mauer photo

The trail surface is crushed gravel, and the trail is considered ADA accessible. Benches are found periodically along the trail. It is a non-motorized trail open for silent sports users - walkers, runners, bikers, cross-country skiers, and snowshoers. The loop trail links to other trails in Stratford.

To get to the trail, take Wisconsin Avenue two blocks south from Highway 153 on the west side of Stratford. Wisconsin Avenue turns right (west) and becomes Parkview Drive. The parking lot is on the left (south), just past the turn. A portable toilet and a shelter are available near the parking lot. Dogs are allowed but must be leashed and must be cleaned up after. There is no fee for trail use.



Swans - Is It a Trumpeter or a Tundra? or perhaps a Snow

Follow-up to the article in last month's Chirps about Trumpeter Swans: The Trumpeter Swan Society, Washington Game Bird Club, Washington Waterfowl Association, and Wild Birds Unlimited, Everett, WA have an excellent brochure illustrating how to identify Trumpeter Swans, Tundra Swans, and Snow Geese. It is available on the Trumpeter Swan Society website:

http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org/docs/Swan_Goose_ID.pdf

Aerial Insectivores in Trouble

Among the birds that have been declining in recent years are many aerial insectivores - those that catch insects while flying. In addition to flycatchers, this includes swallows, swifts, martins, nightjars, and others. Paul Schilke, a graduate student at UW-Madison, has been doing research on insects and birds near lakes and the gradient as one moves further inland. He is also looking at how different vegetation management strategies impact the movement of insects and birds. Initial findings indicate that the nearshore bird community is different than the community further inland. He has also seen differences in insect emergence after rising lake levels.

And Not Just Aerial Insectivores

The State of the Birds, a report from a group of twenty-three organizations (federal government, universities, conservation groups), lists 230 species on its Watch List. They are included based on population declines, habitat loss, or reduced range. Generally, birds of forests, grasslands, and arid lands are in the most trouble. Some bird species of coastal areas and wetlands have made good recoveries, the Wood Duck being one example. Investment, both money and effort, in wetlands has been paying off for birds.

Aridland birds have had a 46 percent loss in the population since 1968, and breeding grassland birds have declined nearly 40 percent since 1968, though the decline has leveled off since 1990—a result of investments in grassland bird conservation. To explore the report go to:

<http://smithsonianianscience.org/2014/09/video-state-of-the-birds/>

Bird Reports — July 22 - August 18, 2014

Participants this month were *Connie Decker, Ken Luepke, Cathy Mauer, Gordy Ruesch, Joan and Joe Rickert, Claire Romanak, and Cam Scott.*

Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 133

- Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan (Luepke), Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback (Decker/Luepke), Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey
- Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant
- American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black-Crowned Night Heron (Luepke), Yellow-crowned Night Heron (Decker/Luepke)
- Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk (Mauer /Ruesch), Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel
- Virginia Rail, Sora, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane (Decker)
- Black-bellied Plover (Decker/Luepke), Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock
- Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Black Tern
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove
- Black-billed Cuckoo
- Eastern Screech-Owl (Decker), Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl
- Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will (C. Scott)
- 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, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark
- Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow
- Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch
- House Wren, Winter Wren, Sedge Wren
- Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin
- Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling
- Cedar Waxwing
- Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black and White Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat
- Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow (Rickert), Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow
- Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting
- Dickcissel, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Oriole
- Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow

Please note that some families are grouped together due to space limitations.

Wanted for Banquet

- Donations of door prizes - feeders or houses, bird books, other bird-related items
- Help with decorating the room before the banquet
- Selling raffle tickets at the banquet

Chequamegon Chirps
N4416 Crane Dr
Medford WI 54451

Officers

President — Claire Romanak
Vice-President — Connie Decker
Secretary — Joe Scott
Treasurer — Cam Scott

Other Club Contacts

Website: chequamegonbirdclub.org
Information: info@chequamegonbirdclub.org
Newsletter: newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org
(Cathy Mauer, editor)
Bird Sightings: Connie Decker

September - October Outdoors

- Autumnal Equinox - September 22
- Full Moon - October 8
- Hawks and Blue-winged Teal are migrating
- Trumpeter Swan cygnets are learning to fly
- Whooping Cranes begin migrating to southern United States
- Leaves are turning red, orange, yellow
- Canvasbacks begin migrating
- Little brown bat depart for southern areas
- Dark-eyed Juncoes arrive
- First frost
- White-tailed deer begin scrapes and rubs



At the Movies

Birders: The Central Park Effect

Directed and produced by Jeffrey Kimball

I love this film! As the package says, it is a film about birds and people. You will enjoy great footage of many of the 275+ birds that are found in Central Park plus interviews with some of the birders who are regulars in the park.

Have you ever tried to explain to a non-birder what it is that you like about birds and birding? The birders in this documentary not only take great joy in birds, they do a wonderful job of articulating the pleasure they get out of birding, what makes it so special.

These birders are a diverse group, but all have one thing in common - their love for birds and birding.

Music Box Films and Other Noises - DVD & Theaters

