

# Chequamegon Chirps



Medford, Wisconsin  
Number 9

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Date: Monday September 21, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m. Meeting

Location: Medford Public Library

Business Program: Discussion about the banquet

Speaker: Joe Scott

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Washington state forest fires were national news for much of the summer. Joe was one of 800 fire fighters battling the Okanagan Fire that burned more than 300,000 acres. He has outstanding pictures to go along With this work experience and his personal insight into this 21 day work adventure last month. It promises to be a most interesting program.

**BANQUET SITUATION:** At this time, there is no Banquet program planned. How important is it to you? What are your feelings on this situation? Please bring constructive thought and suggestions for discussion. This would be an excellent time to talk about our monthly meetings and how we all can contribute to the workings of the club to make it most effective for everyone.

## Feathery Fun Facts

== A birds feathers are two to three times heavier than their skeleton. (exceptions?)  
==Hummingbirds have about 940 feathers while Tundra Swans have about 25,500, most of which are on their heads and necks.  
This info came from Lori Schubring, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop in Rib Mountain

## SPECIAL SALE—Chequamegon Logo

**TEE-SHIRTS** SHORT SLEEVE \$6  
LONG SLEEVE \$9

Extra layers will be welcome as winter gets nearer

## Question of the month

Which species of birds can't walk or hop on land? Loons, Chimney Swifts and Hummingbirds come to mind. Others?

HAWK RIDGE BIRD OBSERVATORY of Duluth began systematic counting of migrating raptors in 1972 and is now known as one of the major such sites anywhere. Visitors come from all states and many countries to observe this annual spectacle. Numbers can be mind boggling at times. Mid-September is the peak of Broad-winged Hawk movement in the Duluth area. There were 101,716 documented on 9-15-2003 for the all-time peak day. Westerly and north-westerly winds are much more important than the calendar day for prime observation. But, even if it isn't an extra good day, the location is beautiful for looking out on Lake Superior and think of all the color you will see on the drive up there. Binoculars are a must and it is a good idea to bring a chair because on busy days all available rocks might be occupied.

Hawk Ridge is the best place in North America to observe Goshawks. Since counting began, 40,000 were counted and 8,000 banded. Non-raptors are also recorded and even butterflies and dragonflies. If it is migrating, it will be recorded—possible exception would be snowbirds who tend to sit low in their cars and you never know how many might be hidden in those big RVs or huge houses on wheels . (That was just an odd thought and has nothing to do with the article, so consider the source and judge accordingly.) For more specific information, Google Hawk Ridge which has an excellent web site with daily totals of all species. When you go to Hawk Ridge you will find an interesting assortment of people as well as birds. There is a friendly atmosphere, with people helpful in identifying species. Banding is also going on and birds are brought up to the viewing area for close observation. Your experience there will be some shade of good all the way to a lifelong memorable experience. Good luck.

BIRDS IN ART opens in Wausau September 12 through November 29 for the 40<sup>th</sup> season at the Leigh-Yawkey-Woodson Art Museum. This is one of the top bird-art shows in the country that has gone on to other major cities around the world such as Chicago, New York, London and Paris. More than 1,000 different artists have exhibited during the four decades the show has gone on. This year 607 artists applied, but only 102 were judged to be the very best which make up the bulk of this show in addition to the 21 "masters" who were featured in previous shows. Those who receive this highest honor do not have to go through the jury selection process. This year the 123 featured artists come from 13 different countries. The result is a "You shouldn't miss" exhibit that will appeal to all tastes. Don't forget to explore the grounds which has a wide variety of outstanding sculptures in various mediums.

SAW-WHET OWLS are one of the darlings of the bird world. Three to seven hundred of these cupcake sized night flyers are banded each year at the Lindwood Springs Research Station just a bit south-west of Stevens Point. Saw-whet migration peaks in October, but I believe there are programs from mid-September into November. This place offers nightly education programs at 7:30 in addition to manning mist nets from dusk until dawn. There is a fee for these programs and many nights are booked up so it is necessary to check their web site to find when there are openings. Go to [www.raptorservices.rezgo.com](http://www.raptorservices.rezgo.com) This is an unique opportunity to learn more about this elusive cutie and possibly hold one in your hand.

A couple notes that should be on the first page, but this blessed computer has a mind of its own--so it is easier to put them here. #1 There will be a 6 pm bird walk, starting from the library.

#2 Another business topic to discuss will be the possibility of having a booth at one of the farmer markets.

## 119 Sightings- July 21st to August 17th, 2015

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

==Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback (Decker/Luepke), Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck,  
==Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey,  
==Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron,  
==Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk (Davis / J. Scott), Red-shouldered Hawk (Romanak / J. Scott), Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin (Decker/Luepke), Peregrine Falcon (Decker/Luepke),  
==Sora, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane(Luepke), Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Wilson's Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope, (Decker/Luepke), Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern (Decker/Luepke), Black Tern,  
==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, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated 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, Brown Creeper (Rickert), House Wren, Sedge Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing,  
==Golden-winged Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black and White Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Canada Warbler,  
==Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song 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,

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Club contacts

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Or [jbragg41@hotmail.com](mailto:jbragg41@hotmail.com)

Bird sightings: [connied@charter.net](mailto:connied@charter.net)

## September-October outdoors

Autumnal Equinox September 23

Full Moon September 28

Migration in full force

Monarch Butterflies and Little brown bats  
join the parade

First killing frost? Good-by mosquitoes

Early stages of white-tailed deer rut

Birds In Art Exhibit opens September 12

## Favorite Book of the Month

BABY OWL'S RESCUE

By Jennifer Keats Curtis

Illustrated by Laura Jacques

A beautifully illustrated and practical story about what to do when finding a fledging bird out of the nest and possibly in trouble. The information about Great Horned Owls is written at grade school level. Ten bucks makes it a reasonable gift for those special children or grandchildren.