

# Chequamegon Chirps



September 18, 2023 Volume 41 Number 9

**For our final outdoor summer meeting of 2023, we will gather at the home of Jim and Lori Livingston, eleven miles north-west of Medford to hear their story of developing forest stewardship.**

**Monday, September 18—5:30 p.m.**

**4144 Division—about seven miles west of Medford and four miles north**

In 1989, with the birth of their first of three children, the Livingston's decided to leave Owen and their teaching positions to move to a 276 acre "fixer-upper" plot north-west of Medford. That is a good story there in itself.

"Fixer upper" translates to a whole heck of a lot of daylight long work days to develop a dream. That effort included building a home in the fall of 1993. In their early years they focused primarily on the intense labor and planning required to achieve the stewardship they envisioned for their property. At times, it seemed as if they were cleaning up one mess after another. Rocks and invasive plants were so pervasive that there were spots where they couldn't see the creek that ran through the property."

At that time Jim Livingston said he knew about the Managed Forest Land program, but stayed away because he was under the impression there were too many restrictions, but later changed his mind and before long, the Livingstons became stars of the program.

"After their tireless efforts began to show results, with the help of private loggers and foresters, the Livingstons decided to share the beauty of their land with the public." That includes ten miles of trails opened in 2000 for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing through wooded areas, with loops set up for various skill levels. Following Managed Forest Land guidelines, they don't charge for use of their trails, but say users have been very generous with donations to cover costs of grooming, upkeep and expansion of the trail system."

"Logging is also an aspect of Managed Forests. Since 2005, more than 8,000 cords and 11,000 board feet of aspen, fir, red pine, spruce and mixed hardwoods

have been harvested. Next year will include a harvest project of 20-acres of balsam and red pine, as well of 65 acres of mixed hardwoods, white pine and some red pine with forest health concerns. This will be the fourth mandatory practice harvest on the property in a ten-year period. The Livingstons build pinpoint plans for each harvest while maximizing market prices with the help of MFL staff and others.”

This information came from the Wisconsin DNR Forestry News.

Banquet speaker Steve Betchkal brings an impressive resume to our October banquet at Stetsonville. Winner of five Emmys and an Edward R. Murrow Award as a professional TV photojournalist; author of multiple books and writer for Eau Claire Leader Telegram, Birdwatching, Wisconsin Trails and Wisconsin West magazines. All that and he is a dynamic speaker who will have books for sale.

# YOU ARE INVITED!

CHEQUAMEGON BIRD CLUB'S  
ANNUAL BANQUET

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023!



**Stetsonville Centennial Hall**, 412 E Centennial Ave., Stetsonville, WI  
**Social gathering: 5:00, meal 6:00. \$20/person.**  
**Spouses/friends welcome. Bar will be open.**

**Speaker: Steve Betchkal**

**Topics: Wisconsin's Richness of Birds, Birds of Kenya.**

**RSVP and send payment by October 1st to:  
Betty Danen, 663 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Medford WI 54451**

## Volunteer Opportunity

The bird club has been asked to help with the Rib Lake educational school forest day again this year. It will be similar to last year's event, with students rotating through various stations along trails set up in the Rib Lake School Forest. The date is Thursday, October 5, starting at 8:30 am and ending at 2:30 pm. If the weather is rainy/snowy or too cold, the event will be cancelled.

Last year it was fun to see the student's enthusiasm as they learned about some of the challenges birds face during migration, but that is just one possible activity. If you would like to help this year, contact Cathy Mauer, [cathymauer@gmail.com](mailto:cathymauer@gmail.com) or 715-748-3160.

## Far Flung Flamingos

Hurricanes are big stories at this time of year with the terrible destruction they can cause when reaching inhabited land areas. But, like with forces of nature, quirky things happen, too. Idalia produced a result that has birders scrambling to record unusual sightings. Flamingos were moved from their Yucatan habitat to areas never recorded. Flamingos in the Carolinas, as far north as Ohio and points in between had to delight birders. How did this happen? There is speculation that the birds were swept up in strong winds currents or even in the eye of this particular storm. It is known definitively that these flamingos, which are normally found on only the southern extreme of in Florida, came from the Yucatan Peninsula. This has happened before and those birds gradually worked their way back to their normal habitat. Does that mean you should look extra carefully at pink flamingo flocks in your weird neighbor's yard? It is reasonable to never say never when it comes to unexpected bird sightings—within reason, of course. Then again, you might qualify for a weird neighbor label if you are scoping out someone's plastic birds too enthusiastically. Good luck trying to sneak a flamingo into this year's Audubon Christmas Bird count. You better have lots of indisputable data to back up your crazy claim. Ken, Connie, Joe and Gayle are fussy about such things.

## What's Around

Migration continues strongly as birds are on their southern journeys. What's around should be interesting with significant observations.

**Groaner of the day.** You know a bird is evil if it lays deviled eggs.

editor

103633 Fence Road

Abbotsford, WI 54405

Club contacts

Website: [Chequamegonbirdclub.org](http://Chequamegonbirdclub.org)

Information: [Info@chequamegonbirdclub.org](mailto:Info@chequamegonbirdclub.org)

[Newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org](mailto:Newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org)

Birdsightings: [connie1@charter.net](mailto:connie1@charter.net)

### **September and October events**

September 2-- Harvest moon

October 16—Annual Banquet

Birds In Art exhibit at the Leigh

Yawkey Museum until 11-26

Significant migration continues

Fall color has started

## **Common Nighthawk**

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*  
Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*

