

Chequamegon Chirps



June 19, 2023 Volume 41 Number 6

Our next meeting will be at 7 PM Monday June 19 at the Medford Public Library large conference room. We will be doing an informal bird walk about 6 PM from the library, weather permitting. We are expecting a visit from guest Melissa Highfill who will tell us about an opportunity to help with a program at the Westboro Library this summer, with birds birding as a focus. Also, Peggy Stalheim will show a video and show us about some interesting and challenging research on endangered Murrelets. If you need to Zoom in, we will have a link open a bit before 7, and it is easiest to click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81695736767> or find it in Zoom under meeting ID 8169573676.

Final results for Great Backyard Bird Count

More than a half a million birders participated in this record-smashing year for the (GBBC), held in February over President's Day weekend. During the last 26 years the GBBC has been improved and expanded from a backyard event into a worldwide birding celebration. Birders participated from 202 countries, 10 more than last year to record 7,559 species. The GBBC provides a mid-winter survey of bird populations that collects valuable information for anyone interested in birds, including biologists, conservationists, and birders.

Clarification

Last month I wrote about how loons crashed during migration in late April over Wisconsin and mentioned, "They need about one-quarter of a mile to take off from water." That isn't a completely false statement, but it is misleading. Actually, loons can take off of water within 20 yards if conditions are favorable. Ken pointed that out to me he had seen that happening on Marshfield park ponds. The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds states, "To become airborne (loons) must run across surface of water with wings beating for 20 yards up to a quarter mile before taking flight." As a rank amateur, it concerns me that I can put information in the Chirps that isn't accurate. When this happens I would really appreciate feedback from readers so corrections can be made.

Celebration of World Migratory Day

“ The Chequamegon Bird Club sponsored three guided birding walks during the month of May in celebration of World Migratory Bird Day. This year’s WMBD theme was ‘Water: Sustaining Bird Life’, and each walk was in an area clearly supporting the validity of that theme.”

“ All three walks were well attended, with the first being held on May 6, 2023 at George W Mead state wildlife area. This walk produced a wonderful number of waterfowl and 52 wetland species, all of whom were identified by sight. Highlights for many attendees were the Trumpeter Swans, and the cooperative Palm Warbler who demonstrated its distinguished “tail pumping”.

“The Mondeaux flowage area was our second event on the evening of May 15, 2023. During this afternoon of perfect Spring weather, folks began to gather at the beach/picnic area at 4:30, and a fun social time ensued prior to taking off for the Aldo Leopold Trail at 6:00. Due to the large number of bird enthusiasts attending (we estimated about 40 people!) we broke into three groups to increase the probability that everyone in a group could hear and/or see any particular bird we were focused on. Approximately 33 species were seen or heard during our walk, with highlights including Trumpeter Swans, Northern Parulas, and Golden Winged Warbler, as well as the many warblers and other songbirds who graced us with their songs. Of particular abundance were the no-see-ums, or gnats, or black flies, or whatever name you choose to give the most annoying insects on the planet. But despite the presence of these bothersome creatures, a good time was had by all!”

“ Our final and most productive walk was held May 20, 2023 at the McMillan Marsh state wildlife area. Over 70 (81) species of birds were identified, largely by sound, due to the remarkable ability for songbirds to stay well disguised among the now fully leafed trees. This did not deter everyone from having a great time enjoying the constant symphony of bird song, as well as the excitement of actually spotting a bird now and again! Highlights included a Scarlet Tanager, singing from a treetop in the sun for a number of minutes while in full view of all participants Blackpoll Warblers, Trumpeter Swans, and numerous warbler species willing to let us learn their songs by singing consistently for us.”

“ We celebrated birds on each trip, all while appreciating the wonderful water habitats that sustain the life of these birds here in Wisconsin. A fitting tribute to World Migratory Bird Day 2023!” This article was contributed by Gayle Davis.

Samuel D. Robbins Recognition

“Sign completes work on Robbins Memorial Shorebird Stopover Site at Killsnake Wildlife area. This sign at the Killsnake Wildlife Area in Manitowoc County completes a restoration project funded by the Sam Robbins Shorebird Endowment Fund. Killsnake Wildlife Area covers approximately 7,000 acres in both southeastern Calumet and southwestern Manitowoc counties. The project site, managed by DNR wildlife manager Steve Easterly composed of grasslands with wetland restorations near the Killsnake and Manitowoc rivers, and is surrounded by a landscape of agricultural lands, small bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands.”

“While restoring almost 14 acres of wetlands, new restorations combined with previously restored wetland habitat will provide a large wetland complex for shorebirds, waterfowl and other wetland bird species.” Article by Sumner Matteson-DNR Avian Ecologist.

This puzzle appeared in a Chirps newsletter sometime way back in the 80s....

Just for a lark, try matching the definitions on the left with the appropriate bird names on the right.
Don't duck this cardinal quiz !

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| ___ 1. In golf, two below par on a hole. | a. Adjutant |
| ___ 2. Tool for opening hard-shelled fruits. | b. Oriole |
| ___ 3. To lose courage. | c. Chat |
| ___ 4. Wide-brimmed hat. | d. Crane |
| ___ 5. To peddle wares by crying them. | e. Darter |
| ___ 6. Toy to fly in the wind. | f. Eagle |
| ___ 7. To grumble. | g. Goose |
| ___ 8. Military officer's assistant. | h. Grouse |
| ___ 9. To shoot at individuals from hiding. | i. Hawk |
| ___ 10. Capable of moving at great speed. | j. Kite |
| ___ 11. Hoisting machine. | k. Nutcracker |
| ___ 12. In bridge, to trump a trick. | l. Pigeon |
| ___ 13. Tailor's long-handled pressing iron. | m. Quail |
| ___ 14. To use abusive language. | n. Rail |
| ___ 15. In show business, unsuccessful production. | o. Ruff |
| ___ 16. To converse informally. | p. Skimmer |
| ___ 17. One who is easily swindled (slang) | q. Snipe |
| ___ 18. To devour. | r. Swallow |
| ___ 19. One who moves suddenly and swiftly. | s. Swift |
| ___ 20. Baltimore baseball player. | t. Turkey |

editor

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Club contacts

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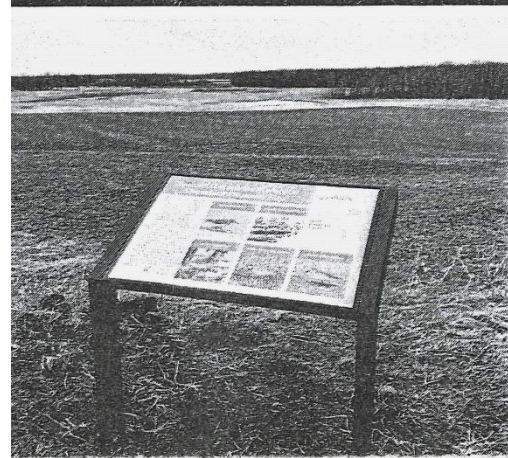
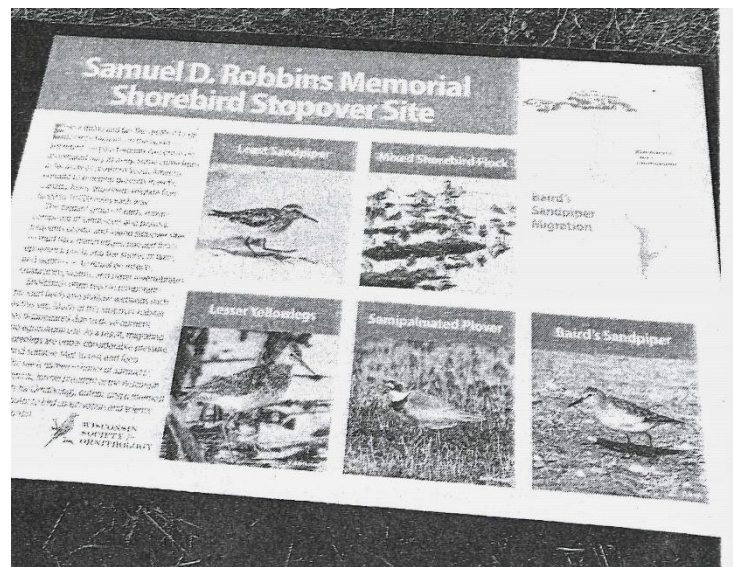
Birdsightings: connie1@charter.net

Thanks to Gayle, Connie, Ron & Ken

For contributions to this Chirps

Puzzle Key

1—F, 2—K, 3—M, 4—P, 5—I,
6—J, 7—H, 8—A, 9—Q, 10—S,
11—D, 12—O, 13—G, 14—N,
15—T, 16—C, 17—L, 18—R,
19—E, 20—B



Photos by Steve Easterly
This sign at the Killsnake Wildlife Area in Manitowoc County completes a restoration project funded by the Sam Robbins Shorebird Endowment Fund and is up just in time for the spring shorebird migration.