

# Chequamegon Chirps

## March 2025 Volume 43 Number 3

Our intrepid and hard-working newsletter editor Jim Bragg is recovering well, and in good spirits. See "Notes from Jim" below.

### Our Next Meeting

Simek Library Medford 7 PM

Topic by Ron Draeger: **Raptor Identification**

If you wish to join via Skype, follow the link we have been using:

<https://join.skype.com/cnbgslaUFxMg>

We suggest joining 15 minutes ahead of time. In a few cases, there has been trouble joining on Skype. If that happens, send an email to [scottstalheim@gmail.com](mailto:scottstalheim@gmail.com) or [draegerron@gmail.com](mailto:draegerron@gmail.com) and ask us to send a fresh invite to your email. Note: Skype slows a lot with many videos at once, so if there are many participants it is helpful to turn off your video

### Wausau Bird Club Report

Several of our members attended the Wausau Bird Club meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to hear Steve Fisher present a program entitled "**Yellowstone Raptors...and More!**" Steve and his wife Evie have made trips to Yellowstone and the surrounding wilderness over many years, and his beautiful photography included many raptors as well as wolves, grizzlies and more. Hopefully we can continue more sharing between the clubs in the future.

### Great Backyard Bird Count Report

Ornithologists and others continue to summarize the data from the GBYBC held Feb 14-17. Several in our club participated and were part of one of the world's biggest citizen science events for birders. EBird reports were perhaps half of all reports, and we already know that EBird alone included 8101 species, 319K checklists, and 253 subregions.

### Kuse Preserve Update

Thank you to Stacy Leonard for telling us about the Kuse Farm Museum and Nature Preserve at the February meeting. Stacy wants us to know about these upcoming events:

**March 29th 9:30** Apple tree pruning - any interested people are welcome to attend.

**April 12th 10:00** Bird house building. They would appreciate extra hands for that! The Taylor County Sportsmen are providing the supplies, but if anyone has a drill they could bring, that would be helpful. This is at the Kuse Preserve.

**April 21<sup>st</sup> 7:00** They will have the classroom area ready for our meeting at 7 PM. Weather permitting, we can start with a pre-meeting bird walk at 6:30 PM.

***Kuse Farm Museum and Nature Preserve***  
***W 6219 Allman Ave, Medford, WI***

## **Notes from Jim**

What does one do when under house arrest? I'm finding out since that is sort of my current situation for the last three weeks and probably for the next two months as a damaged knee ligament heals. While there is little pain involved, it is inconvenient and awkward adjusting to a brace that runs from my ankle to above my knee to keep things locked in place. Exercises, books, crossword puzzles, and correspondence all help to fill time. The best convenience is a comfortable rocking chair, footrest, lap blanket and a close view of a Wild Birds Unlimited feeder that squirrels don't bother. A dozen cardinals are the most common visitors with a mix of house finches, tree sparrows, juncos, chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, mourning doves, hairy, downy, and red-bellied woodpeckers with an occasional house sparrow or starling. There were 3 robins and 3 bluebirds in the yard last week. My son-in-law has heard sandhill cranes and saw a flock of more than 50 robins in the neighborhood in the last two days. This location is between Grafton and Port Washington about a half-mile west of Lake Michigan and 25 miles north of Milwaukee.

It will be nice to return home. Until then, I get to enjoy the comfort of a convenient rocker while I soak up the quietness of the house as I observe current activity with the expectation of returning species to the feeder and yard. So far, so good.