

Chequamegon Chirps



May, 2024 Volume 42 Number 5

The April meeting was shortened because we needed to use the inner meeting room, which closes at 8:00 PM. That meant there wasn't time for Sue Vick to give her presentation of birds seen on a recent birding trip to Costa Rica. That is rescheduled for the June meeting. There was time for our annual election which produced these results. Scott Stalheim—president; Joe Scott—vice president; Mary Urban—secretary; Sue Vick—treasurer. Autumn Laher and Betty Danen retired as vice-president and treasurer. We appreciate their donation of time and as a special bonus for their exemplary service they will receive a two month extension of their yearly salaries.

There won't be a regular meeting on the third Monday of the month in May.

Five events and activities from May 4 to June first are replacing the monthly meeting. A June monthly meeting will be held at the Medford Library on June 17 and include a presentation by Sue Vick of a recent birding trip to Costa Rica.

Here is a synopsis of those activities that have happened so far and what is expected in the near future. Sixteen members and visitors gathered at Hamus Park on Saturday, **May 4**. The bird walk produced sights or sounds of Canadian geese, sandhill cranes, Eastern Phoebe, Cooper's hawk, blue jay, black-capped chickadee, American robin, cedar waxwings, American goldfinch, chipping sparrow, song sparrow, red-winged blackbirds, and cardinals. Ron Draeger presented information about insects and birds, including Youtube videos of birds eating insects.

One week later there was the Sandhill Wildlife Area tour near Dexterville on **May 11**. Eight club members attended this annual tour of the thousands of acres enclosed by a high fence. Fifty eight species were recorded with some of the highlights being a pair of scarlet tanagers, three bitterns eight to ten different warblers, trumpeter swans, cormorants, catbirds and bluebirds.

Friday, May 17 Bird club supported booth at the Taylor County Conservation Youth Fair at the Taylor County Fairgrounds.

WMBD event 10AM-Noon at Perkinstown Winter Sports Area

World Migratory Bird Day

Protect Insects, Protect Birds



Celebrate our birds
and learn about the insects they depend on.

Saturday, May 18
10 a.m. - noon

Perkinstown Winter Sports Area
N4168 Winter Sports Rd, 15 miles west of Medford

- *Birdwatching and insect walks and insect investigation*
- *Insectarium*
- *Information about protecting birds and insects*
- *Outdoor & indoor activities. Come rain or shine*

Both adults and children welcome. FREE

Please join us!

Details at info@chequamegonbirdclub.org or our Facebook page.

Sponsored by the Chequamegon Bird Club



World Migratory Bird Day in the Americas is coordinated by Environment for the Americas
World Migratory Bird Day Art by Anna Rose

The poster on the previous page was created by Cathy Mauer.

Even though this event ends at noon, there will be more information presented later. No food will be available as in previous years, so if you like a mid-day meal, you will need to pack a picnic lunch with plates and utensils. If anyone feels obligated, and wants to bring snacks, cookies, bars, etc. you are welcome to set them out for the event. This isn't a request. Also, note that this is a bird and insect walk. After the bird/insect walk, there will be displays and a discussion about insects. There will be some materials and an insectarium, but members are encouraged to bring bug nets, jars and insect books.

Saturday, June 1, 8AM McMillan Marsh State Wildlife Area—Marshfield

About a mile north of the Marshfield Hospital on Highway E, turn west on Marsh Road and go to the end of that road where there is parking. If you're coming from the north, Highway 13 is closed where it meets Highway 153. From there go east and south until you get to where you need to. If the sun is out and your GPS works, "You can't miss it." Boy, if I had a buck for every time I had those kind of directions to arrive with no complications, I wouldn't have enough to buy a cup of coffee. If birds can do it, why can't we?

The theme for this year's World Migratory Bird Day is protect insects, protect birds. Bird migration is a natural phenomenon that has captured the imagination of people across cultures for centuries. These annual journeys involve the mass movement of birds across vast distances, often spanning continents, and are driven by a combination of instinct, environmental cues, and survival strategies. Migration is a complex behavior that serves various ecological, evolutionary, and survival purposes. The very phenomenon of bird migration is under threat, particularly due to declining insect populations, upon which many migratory birds rely for substance.

Insects provide essential energy for migratory birds, offering a rich source of nutrients critical for their survival. They rely on insects for energy during migration and other stages of their life cycles, especially when feeding their offspring. However, the massive decline in insect populations in many parts of the world is having serious implications for migratory birds.

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Club contacts

Website: chequamegonbirdclub.org

May and June events

Full moons May23 and June 21

First day of summer June 20

Prime bird arrival numbers

Egg production, nesting at peak

Turtles laying eggs

Fawns being born

School years ending

Enjoy the extended daylight



Varied Bunting

Passerina versicolor

A relative of the indigo bunting and the lazuli bunting, the colorful but inconspicuous varied bunting is a summer visitor to the states along the Mexican border.

Recognition. 4½–5½ in. long. Bill stubby and conical. Male mainly purplish blue with red nape. (Can appear all black in poor light.) Female dull brownish gray.

Habitat. Dry streamside thickets, brushy hillsides, and desert scrub. Also pastures.

Nesting. Nest is a cup of grass, stems, and plant fibers, 1–12 feet above ground in small tree, shrub, or tangle of vines. Eggs 3–4, pale blue. Incubation about 12 days. Young leave nest 12–14 days after hatching.

Food. Insects and seeds.