ChequamegonChirps

September 19th, 2026 Volume 44 Number 9

IMPORTANT: Please note different starting time for this meeting

The Monday, September 21st Chequamegon meeting will be outdoors. You will have the opportunity to learn about the process of evaluating a forest area to determine if logging an area is practical and items that can prevent the process from starting. Find out how birds can influence the process. Cars will leave at 1:30 from the Medford Library. Please arrive 15 minutes early to figure out carpooling. The session will include some walking on unimproved forest roads.

To make the departure timely and efficient: RSVP Joe Scott by leaving a message at 715-965-3498 or text joeyramon1@yahoo.com

For some, it may be less travel to go directly to the starting point which is the intersection of Forest Road 111 (Lost Lake Road) and forest road 543. Coordinates are 45,2821271-905770665

Banquet

October 19th at the Stetsonville Centennial Hall

Social hour 5:00 to 6:00 with meal at 6:00. Speaker at 7:00

Cost is $25. Guests are welcome. Raffle and door prizes will be available

Members are asked to please bring a dessert to pass.

Please confirm your attendance by informing Sue Vick by October 5th. She can be contacted at 715-305-3492 or susanmvick@hotmail.com

Speaker Brian Heeringa, Wildlife Biologist for the Washburn District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, will give a presentation exploring the natural history, diversity, and role bats play in the ecosystems of the world. Find out about the bats of Wisconsin, and which bats call the Northwoods home. Brian will provide an update of the continued impacts of White Nose Syndrome and how

some bat populations are showing a glimmer of hope. Stick around after the presentation for a live bat encounter with Echo, the Big Brown Bat. (I don't know what that involves.)

Migration

If a bird is in the air between dusk and daylight at this time of year, it is considered a migrant. Three nights ago, (I'm writing this on the 12th) bird migration over the United States being reached 550 million, measured by the **Cornell University Bird Cast.** That night Wisconsin was the epicenter of that movement where 30 million birds were recorded as migrants.

Bird migration tends to peak a couple hours after dark. These numbers can vary greatly from night to night due to changing conditions even during the same night. Direction and strength of winds can push birds in different directions or cause them to land if there is a dramatic direction change. Rain is another hinderance.

People with exceptional hearing can go outside at night during migration and hear scores of different species. What a gift. If I could hear such sounds—which I can't—I still wouldn't be able to identify hardly any species. For those of you who have that skill, count your blessings. I do remember one spring night many years ago when I fell asleep outside until tundra swans passing overhead woke me. That is still a treasured memory.

Ongoing Bird Declines

Many millions of birds migrating make some people think bird numbers are fine. They are not. Here is some information from a recent paper by Hardy Kern who is the ABC's Director of Government Relations, Birds and Pesticides Campaign. Decline of Avifauna in Canada and the United States are disappearing at staggering rates; we are nearly three billion birds short of population levels in 1970. A new paper published in March found that the losses for many species are accelerating and this pattern is not uniform across the continent. Research shows birds are declining much faster in the Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, and California, and in areas with higher levels of farming and grazing than in other areas of the country. The study looked at 261 bird species along 1,033 survey routes from the North American Breeding Bird Survey and found an average decline of about fifteen percent. High levels of pesticide use, fertilizer applications, and crop production cause greater losses. Areas that are warming rapidly also cause numbers to decline.

Midwestern grasslands and Mid-Atlantic insectivores have higher rates of decline. When is the last time you needed to clean your windshield? That used to be necessary for every gas station stop. There aren't many fencerows anymore. Look at crops grown as you drive sideroads around here or longer trips. Field after field of corn or soybeans. Hayfields used to be first cut near the 4th of July. Now hay harvesting begins in late May. Formerly plentiful bobolinks and meadowlarks are now rarely seen in this area. Rotational grazing is a healthy alternative but few practice it.

ABC's teams focus is and support state on reducing pesticide use on farms, advocate for more conservation funding in the Farm Bill, and support state and federal legislation to create safe and healthy bird habitat in the areas most declining.

A quiz from Bird Brain Teasers by Patrick Merrell

Insert a bird name in each box so words are formed across and down
answers are on page 4

I have three more groups. Would you prefer to have the answers hidden in pages 1-3?

KN	DE	OVER
SL ☐ Y	T ☐ ER	MI ☐ AVE
EDGE	MENT	DED

And information:

During World War II, the U.S. used a pigeon corps of 54,000 birds for carrying messages. More than 3,000 soldiers, trained and cared for them. The birds were parachuted from airplanes, released from subs, flew day or night, and sometimes carried cameras to take reconnaissance photographs.

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Club contacts

Website: Chequamegonbirdclub.org

Information: Info@chequamegonbirdclub.org

Newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org

September and October happenings

Full moons: September 26 (Harvest) RAIL

October 25 (Hunters) CROW

Autumnal Equinox—first day of fall OWL

Enjoy the arriving color show

Start getting ready for winter