

Chequamegon Chirps



August 21, 2023 Volume 41 Number 8

**Continuing with our outdoor summer sessions theme, we will meet Monday,
August 21st at 6 PM**

At the HAMUS Nature Preserve Trail, Marshfield

201 Wilderness View Drive

This is just north of Marshfield and a bit south of McMillan Marsh. Coming from the north on Highway 13, turn east on Mann road, north on Highway E and then left on Northridge which should bring you to Wilderness View Drive. If your GPS leads you astray, try calling 715-305-3492 or 715-748-0647 to hone in on the final destination.

The address will get you very close, but follow signs to the parking lot and one of the shelters. Bring your own food and drink if you wish.

We will start with a general get-together, and share “What’s Around” and discuss information about the important contributions of “Citizen Birding”--many of our members have participated in some kind of citizen birding which produces interesting experiences and memories as well as providing research data. Scott Stalheim will play a few minute recording of the suggested rules for “E-Bird”. Then we will walk on the nature trail. There is water nearby and we hope to encounter woodland and water birds. On our walk we will record an “E-Bird” session.

Annual Banquet Monday, October 16

Steve Betchkal will speak about Wisconsin’s Richness of Birds and Birds of Kenya. This event will be at the Stetsonville Centennial Hall. More details on page four and the next Chirps.

July Session

Our July 17th meeting had nearly 20 participants and about that many species were recorded at the Kevin and Jane Paul farm west of Stetsonville. We have had lousy meeting weather several times this year so it was nice to have a beautiful evening of pleasant weather for a change. This farm practices rotational grazing

which is much more survivable for different birds than a standard mono culture rotation of corn, soybeans and early and regularly mowed hayfields. Along with varied habitat, a manure pit offered sightings of two species that were “lifers” for some members. Manure pits crust over during the year and are attractive places for some species to stop at during migration and even offer nesting possibilities in some instances. Except when pits are being emptied, their odor is not sweet, but tolerable.

There were numerous killdeer present and in addition there were three solitary sandpipers and a Baird’s sandpiper at Kevin’s pit. They didn’t fly away when we gathered so everyone was able to get good looks at them. Out in the fields eastern meadowlarks and at least one bob-o-link appeared. In addition to these, Sue Vick reported red-winged blackbird, Savana sparrow, song sparrow, kestrel, eastern kingbird, tree swallow, barn swallow, starling, robin, sedge wren and great blue heron in her E-Bird report.

Baird’s Sandpiper and Solitary Sandpiper

Since we got a good look at both of these species at our last meeting, I’d like to share some interesting tidbits gleaned from the Book of North American Birds published by Readers Digest.

“Baird’s Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*: Seldom traveling in large flocks and often feeding far from water, the Baird’s sandpiper spends its winters high in the Andes of South America. Habitat is grassy areas and mud flats; nests on tundra. Nest is a small hollow in dry tundra. The four pink or olive eggs, spotted with dark brown, are incubated by both sexes for about 22 days and then they are able to fly 16-20 days after hatching. Their food is insects and crustaceans.”



Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*

“An oddball among its peers, the solitary sandpiper is not as much of a loner as its name might imply. But it does nest in the seclusion of Canadian and Alaskan coniferous forests in wet wooded places that are not unusual sandpiper habitat. It does the unthinkable for a sandpiper-it nests in trees. This sandpiper, however does not build its own nest; rather, it lays its eggs in the abandoned nests of robins, grackles, or rusty blackbirds which may be anywhere up to 40 feet above the ground. Eggs, usually four, greenish or buff, spotted with brown are incubated by the female for about 24 days. Sandpiper chicks cannot fly for several weeks, but they run as soon as they are dry and all leave the nest before they are two days old. This is no problem for most sandpipers, which nest on the ground. But the chicks of the solitary sandpiper must step out of their high-rise nest and like little tree ducks, beat their wings frantically as they drop to the forest floor below. The chicks learn to wade in shallow water and to hunt aquatic animals of all sorts, from insects and crustaceans to tadpoles and even small frogs. They also learn to shake one foot rapidly under the water, bringing up creatures up out of the mud. Then, plunging their heads into the water, they bob and peck to catch their meal as it scatters.



**Solitary
Sandpiper**

Tringa solitaria

editor

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Club contacts

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August and September events

August has two super moons

Sturgeon on the 1st and Blue on the 30th

Fall migration increasing

The 2023-24 school year is starting

Recent rains were needed

Gardens are at peak production

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 2nd St., Medford WI 54451