

# Chequamegon Chirps



October 19, 2020 Volume 39 Number 10

## **Another Zoom Session**

Seven P.M. is the time on Monday October 19

There will be another Zoom Session at the usual time and circumstance. I don't have more information because I have a new phone and it and I are on different wave lengths. It isn't allowing me to make calls or retrieve messages. A smart phone is of little or no use to a dumb operator. I didn't have that problem with my dial phone. Or was it a stone tablet?

Covid-19 and political campaigns continue on. The election is only weeks away so the current non-stop ads should stop. But, will the vitriolic level of political dissent diminish and cooperatively produce some positive results? We can only hope so. Frankly, heading south without regard to borders has appeal this year in addition to warmer temperatures and better food availability. Now I'll climb down from my soapbox and we'll discuss more important things such as migration. What have you seen? What new winter residents are you seeing? Do you have Dark-eyed Juncos or Pine Siskins at your feeders? Anything else? Connie mentioned (the one phone call that worked) she has more Robins, plenty of Pine Siskins, increasing numbers of Juncos with a highlight of a one day visit by a Tufted-tit Mouse.

## **Eagle vs. EGLE**

Man (in this case, bird) vs. machine usually does not turn out well for the animal. Not this time. A drone, a DJI Phantom 4 Pro Advanced model, for the Michigan state's Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy was attacked by a bald eagle over Lake Michigan while it mapped shoreline erosion. The eagle tore off one of the drone's propellers which then plummeted 162 feet into the water and sank. I surmise the drone was in the eagle's territory or it was just ornery and looking for a fight. Could there be a moral of "Don't mess with someone who has a white head" in this situation? Probably not, just a geezer thought.

## **Sportsman's Lake Field trip**

Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M. is the time for club members to gather at the Sportsman's Lake north of Owen—also known as the Owen Watershed. The meeting place will be on the north side which is one half mile west of Highway D on Center Road where

there is a fishing pier. There is adequate parking at this site, and if you should be late, the group will move in a counterclockwise direction to observe all four sides of this water impoundment. Masks are required and social distancing should be observed. Bring a chair and any food or drinks you like. Connie's woodsy cabin is only a couple miles from the lake and will be available for a trail walk. There is also an outhouse there which isn't available at the lake. Weather permitting, we can have a campfire and more time to visit. Speaking of weather, the whole outing will depend on weather conditions. If there is doubt, contact Connie at 715-654-5819.

### **Abbotsford Library Program**

There is going to be a bird program at the Abbotsford Library--north end of Main Street--at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. I don't know if there will live birds in attendance, but the presenter, whose name I don't have, looks impressive with a bushy white beard and matching eyebrows. It is an opportunity to learn about common species of wetlands, forests and grasslands. Pre-registration is required along with masks and a limit of 30 people. Call 715-223-3920 to register and for more information.

### **Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum**

This outstanding museum has been in the news lately for a couple different reasons. First of all, the bad news. It is now closed until further notice due to Covid-19 precautions which interrupts the current Birds In Art exhibit. If planning a visit there, call to check if it has reopened. The other newsworthy item is more positive. "Museum staff took advantage of the building closure during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic to turn a 40-foot-high glass window into an aesthetically pleasing example of how a few hours and a few simple, inexpensive materials can save birds from colliding with windows." L-shaped angle irons and parachute cord were the \$250 of material used by two people for about six hours over two days. "Museum staff haven't found any stunned or dead birds beneath the window since the 'bird savers' were installed in May." Quoted material in his paragraph comes from an article in the Wisconsin DNR by Lisa Gaumnitz.

The American Bird Conservancy has six quick and affordable suggestions to protect birds from your windows. Or windows from birds. Once we had a Ruffed Grouse smash through a house window. It wasn't a cheap repair. I now have our feeders within a foot of the kitchen windows. While not eliminating window bumps, I haven't found dead birds from collisions for quite a while.

1. Tempera paint can be put on freehand or with a stencil as a template. They can be downloaded for free at [spraypaintstencils.com](http://spraypaintstencils.com).

2. Use tape to create patterns. Translucent ABC Bird Tape transmits light and lasts outdoors. Birdsmartglass.org for more info.

3. Window films such as White Collid Escape is see through from the inside, opaque from the outside. Solyx Bird Safety Film has narrow horizontal or vertical stripes. Links are at birdsmartglass.org.

4. Acopian Bird Savers, known as Zen Wind Curtains are unobtrusive as well as highly effective. birdsavers.com has more information.

5. Lightweight netting over windows or removable screens are sold by different companies. Birdscreen.com, birdsavers.com, easyupshades.com sell screens or other barriers that can be attached with suction cups or eye hooks. These options must be several inches in front of the window so birds don't hit the glass after hitting the net.

6. Prefabricated decals shaped as raptors don't scare birds away from windows, but they are obstacles that birds will hopefully avoid. To be effective, any type of decal needs to be spaced more closely than recommended by most manufactures. Sources for more information are windowdressingetc.com, windowalert.com, and duncraft.com.

For more information contact the American Bird Conservancy at [www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org) or [abc@abcbirds.org](mailto:abc@abcbirds.org).

### **One Million and Counting**

Ryan Brady, DNR Conservation Biologist, reported that Kay Kavanagh of Forest County submitted the one millionth Wisconsin eBird checklist. With over 22,000 submissions, she has more than anyone else in the state. She explained, "Birding basically rescued my life after a personal tragedy left me reeling over three decades ago. The passion I have to bird almost every day comes from this episode in my life." Some of her birding activities she has done include conducting roadside Breeding Survey routes, Christmas Bird Counts Project Feeder Watch, Great Backyard Bird Counts and was a major contributor to the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II.

"eBird was released in 2002 and especially took flight later that decade. Wisconsin was an early leader in promoting the tool and soon became one of the first states to develop its own locally customized portal to the eBird database, *Wisconsin eBird*." Wisconsin became the first state to use an integrated eBird platform for collecting breeding bird atlas data.

"Over 300 publications have used eBird data from more than 500,000 contributors worldwide.

Editor Chequamegon Chirps

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## Club Contacts

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## October and November Events

Full moons October 31 and November 30

Deer at high activity during rut

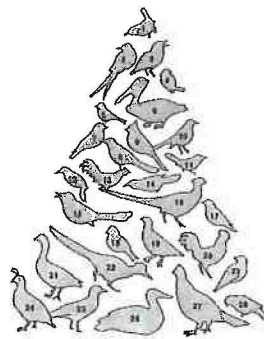
Second October full moon 10-31

Peak tree color continues

Soybean harvest in progress

Corn combining soon to follow

Be well, stay healthy



NATURE TRIMS THE TREE by Chuck Ripper  
Featuring the state birds of America:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. CAROLINA WREN South Carolina  | 13. BLUE HEN CHICKEN Delaware                                    |
| 2. SCISSOR-TAILED FLY-CATCHER Oklahoma   | 14. NORTHERN (BALTIMORE) ORIOLE Maryland                         |
| 3. WESTERN MEADOWLARK Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Wyoming     | 15. MOCKINGBIRD Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas |
| 4. BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE Maine, Massachusetts                                     | 16. RING-NECKED PHEASANT South Dakota                            |
| 5. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH Iowa, New Jersey, Washington                                 | 17. HERMIT THRUSH Vermont  |
| 6. BROWN PELICAN Louisiana   | 18. PURPLE FINCH New Hampshire                                   |
| 7. EASTERN BLUEBIRD Missouri, New York   | 19. WILLOW PTARMIGAN Alaska, Rhode Island                        |
| 8. BROWN THRASHER Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia | 20. RHODE ISLAND RED Nevada                                      |
| 9. CARDINAL Illinois, Indiana  | 21. NENE (HAWAIIAN) GOOSE Hawaii                                 |
| 10. AMERICAN ROBIN Connecticut, Michigan, Wisconsin                                | 22. ROADRUNNER New Mexico  |
| 11. CACTUS WREN Arizona  | 23. MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD Idaho, Nevada                              |
| 12. YELLOW-SHATED FLICKER (YELLOWHAMMER) Alabama                                   | 24. CALIFORNIA QUAIL California                                  |
|  | 25. CALIFORNIA GULL Utah   |
|  | 26. COMMON LOON Minnesota  |
|  | 27. RUFFED GROUSE Pennsylvania                                   |
|  | 28. LARK BUNTING Colorado  |

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