

Chequamegon Chirps



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Monday, October 17 at 7:00 P.M. will be our next meeting and it will be at the Forward Bank located on the west side of Highway 13 on the south end of Medford. Park on the west side of the bank and use the main entrance. The theme of the program will center on migration and how data is collected and used.

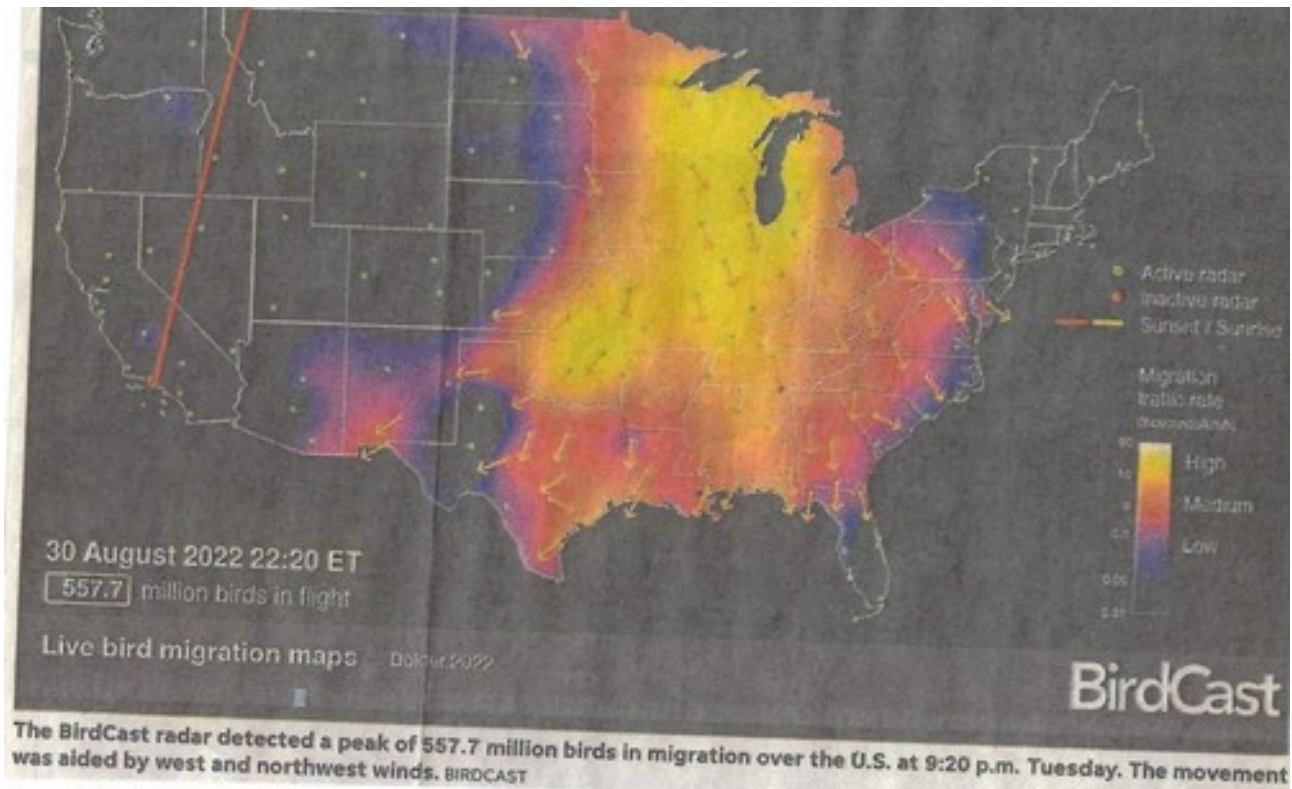
Last month's meeting in addition to bird sightings and What's Around was highlighted by a presentation of turtle lore by member Curt Staab. Newly hatched snapping and wood turtles added a cuteness factor to other information Curt delivered such as turtle eggs will not hatch if they are turned over during their incubation. Wood turtles do not start to lay eggs until they are 18 years old. Snapping turtles can lay up to 80 eggs at one time. Hatching can take 75 to 90 days depending on temperatures and nest location. Curt's sharing of his expertise is another example of the diverse knowledge within the club. Volunteers willing to share their unique experiences are welcome.

Migration Continues

Migration never really stops. We are now past the peak of movement, but it still is significant. I had been looking for dark eyed juncos when I was in Ogema, Price County, last week and didn't see one for sure until October 6. Waves of them started coming in on that day and this afternoon the first one showed up in my yard on the 9th which is about 40 miles south of Ogema. This casual observation gave me satisfaction, but in reality, it is such a very tiny molehill compared to the mountains of migration material collected by much more proficient birders. Many of them now submit information through Ebird and access information through various apps that provides enormous amounts of material and number that can satisfy any level of interest.

The following information is gleaned from a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article by outdoors writer Paul A. Smith. BirdCast is a radar-based project to estimate bird movement. It was initiated in 1999 as a collaboration among the Environmental Protection Agency, National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Clemson University Radar Ornithology Laboratory, the Academy of Natural Sciences in

Philadelphia and GeoMarine, Inc. To check out the Bird Cast project, visit birdcast.info for more information.



The goals included: maintaining a website that posted educational information about bird migration and steps property managers could take to mitigate the danger and stress migrating birds face when passing through an area. Predicting and monitoring bird migrations on a daily basis using weather radar and raising public awareness about the sensitivity of migratory bird populations.

Fortified by a decade of operational experience and additional research, in 2010 ornithologists and computer scientists from Cornell University and Oregon State University obtained a National Science Foundation award and worked through 2016 to refine BirdCast. Today it is run primarily by scientists from Cornell, OSU and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The quantity of bird migration information collected is mind boggling. This year on Wednesday, August 30, at 9:20 P.M. there 557.7 million birds in migration over the United States. The movement stayed strong through the early hours Wednesday, 441 million at 2:00 A.M. and 345 million at 4:00 A.M. before tapering off to 123 million at 6:00 A.M. and 118 million at 8: A.M.

The total included 48.4 million across Wisconsin from 7:40 P.M. Tuesday to 6:20 A.M. Wednesday. Radar in Marathon County recorded 9.4 million birds during that time. A stiff west and northwest wind created good conditions statewide for bird movement.

The technology has become sophisticated to tell direction, elevation and speed of the migration birds. In Milwaukee the peak was 163,200 birds in flight at 9:50 P.M. They were on average flying SSE at 38 miles per hour at an altitude of 2,500 feet.

Birdwatching and Your Brain

Rosie Wolf Williams in the Next Avenue listed some reasons that birdwatching is a healthy brain activity. Yeah, this preaching to the choir, but it is still appreciated. It is a healthy and rewarding hobby that promotes curiosity, natural environments and social connections. New experiences can help maintain cognitive function and well-being in older adults. Social contacts widens the social network of isolated adults. Birdwatching promotes physical and mental well-being. Thank you birds.

Woodson Art Museum Bird Exhibit

Artwork created by 118 artists from throughout the world will be exhibited in the 47th annual "Birds in Art" through November 27, 2022. The exhibition presents original paintings, sculptures and graphics created within the last three years by worldwide artists.

Piping Plover Success Story

After too many doom and gloom stories, it is a pleasure to hear the endangered Great Lakes piping plovers had a record breaking breeding season. This year, 150 chicks fledged from 72 breeding pairs. For a chick to be considered fledged, it must live until at least 23 days old and be capable of flight. Recovery efforts contributed to population growth from less than 15 pairs in the 1980s to the 72 pairs this summer. Michigan is the stronghold of the population with 48 pairs. In Wisconsin, six nests produced 22 fledglings at Long Island of the Apostle Island chain and at Cat Island in Green Bay, 11 of 12 chicks fledged. May their next year be even better.

editor

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October and November Events

Full moons October 9 Hunters moon November

Beaver moon

The shift from summer to fall/winter. Migration

less, but still impressive.

Enjoy the color of the season as trees blush before undressing.

