



Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

April 2009

Volume 28 Number 4

NEXT MEETING:

Date: Monday, April 20, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Medford Public Library

Program: Valhalla Recreation Area

Election: Election of Officers 2009-2010

Refreshments: Rhoda Barber

Please bring your own mug for beverages.



April Program

As part of the process for developing a Site Management Plan for the Valhalla Recreation Area, the USDA-Forest Service is seeking input from various interest groups, including birders, and has contacted the Chequamegon Bird Club. The Valhalla area, located in Bayfield County near Washburn, was once a downhill ski area. It currently has hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain bike, snowmobile, and ATV trails. Some of these uses conflict and some may be detrimental to the natural resources, including bird habitat and bird populations, of the area. A multi-year process has been underway to develop a management plan for the area. Public comments on the management plan are due April 24. A representative of the Forest Service will present an informational program about Valhalla at our April meeting and seek comments from club members.

Upcoming Events

April 22 – Earth Day

May 3 – International Dawn Chorus Day

May 8-11 – Horicon Marsh Bird Festival (For more information go to:

www.horiconmarshbirdfestival.com/welcome.cfm

May 9 – International Migratory Bird Day

May 15-17 – Chequamegon Bay Birding & Nature Festival (*Article on page 3 or go to:* www.birdandnaturefest.com)

May 21-24 – Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Annual Convention, *Siren*

May 29 – Youth Conservation Day, *Medford*

June 5-7 – Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey, *Wabeno area* (Contact: hower@uwgb.edu)

June 5-7 – Ottawa National Forest Breeding Bird Census, *Sidnaw area* (Contact: sbabler@fs.fed.us)

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Election of CBC Officers

The current officers (Claire Romanak – President, Connie Decker – Vice President, Hildegard Kuse – Secretary, and Cam Scott – Treasurer) have agreed to run for another term. If anyone else is interested in serving, please submit your name to Doug Pledger of the Nominating Committee.

CBC Bluebird Trails

On an afternoon expedition this past Saturday, six members of the Chequamegon Bird Club (Claire and Bob Romanak, Willa and Doug Pledger, Gordy Ruesch, and Cathy Mauer) installed twenty-eight Bluebird houses. Ten are located on the Weather Shield Office grounds and five near the Weather Shield Glass Plant. Eleven were installed at Diamond Lake State Natural Area and two at a nearby private property. The private property also had two existing houses, which will be added to the Bluebird Trail in that area.

The weather was beautiful. The frost was, mostly, out of the ground. And the work was fun! Posts made of metal conduit were driven into the ground and the houses were fastened with pipe clamps. A variety of data were recorded, including direction of the opening, distance to water bodies, and type of box. Three different types of houses were installed. A location was recorded using a GPS so that house locations can be easily mapped. The houses will be monitored weekly.

Previously members of the Medford Area High School Science Club installed fifteen houses near the Medford Area High School and Elementary School. MASH Advanced Placement Biology students and Science Club students will be monitoring the birdhouses. Tracey Swedlund, CBC member and biology teacher at the school, set up a website for the project:

<http://www2.medford.k12.wi.us:8400/~swedltr/Bluebird%20Study/Chequamengon%20Bird%20Club%20Timeline.htm>

There are about fifteen boxes left to install, perhaps at local cemeteries and/or golf courses.



MASH students installed houses near the schools. A big thanks to Tracey and the students for their interest and participation.



CBC members installed houses at several locations.

Bird Reports (February - March 2009)

Checklist observers: *Connie Decker , Ken Luepke , Cathy Mauer , Gordy Ruesch , Doug and Willa Pledger , Claire Romanak , and Greg and Cam Scott*



- Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 58
- Canada Goose, Mallard, Northern Pintail , Green-winged Teal , Common
- Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey
- Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk (Decker / Luepke / Romanak), Red-shouldered Hawk (Decker / Luepke), Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel
- Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, American Woodcock (Romanak)
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove
- Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl (Romanak)
- Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker
- Northern Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven,
- Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch,
- Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing
- American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal
- Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle
- Purple Finch, House Finch, White-winged Crossbill (Decker / Luepke), Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow

Chequamegon Bay Birding & Nature Festival

The third annual Chequamegon Bay Birding & Nature Festival will draw birders and nature lovers of all skills and ages to the south shore of Lake Superior for some of the best birding and most breathtaking scenery the Midwest has to offer, May 15-17, 2009.

With nearly 110 activities to choose from, this three-day event will provide a variety of ways for visitors to experience the area's birds and wildlife in their natural habitat, as well as take in the spectacular sights of the Bayfield Peninsula, Apostle Islands, Chequamegon Bay and Lake Superior's coastal wetlands.

Participants in guided field trips will enjoy the birds, wildlife, and natural beauty of the area through hiking, kayaking, and walking along the beach. Workshops will provide information on topics ranging from bird banding to photography to landscaping your backyard for wildlife. Other activities include exhibits, live raptors displays, educational programs, self-guided field trip opportunities, activities for children, and over 40 expert speakers.



“We are extremely excited to welcome bird and nature enthusiasts to the Chequamegon Bay area,” said one of the festival coordinators, DNR Biologist, Ryan Brady, “This region is a phenomenal birding destination and the extensive list of activities offers something for everyone.”

May is the peak of spring migration and therefore the ideal time to visit the Chequamegon Bay area.

Migrating and resident birds mingle during this time of year, some setting up their summer homes and others just passing through the area. The warming temperatures also keep birds active, so there is a greater chance to view a wide variety of bird species.

The Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 2 and County Highway G in Ashland, WI, will serve as home base for the event. For more information call (800) 284-9484 or visit www.birdandnaturefest.com



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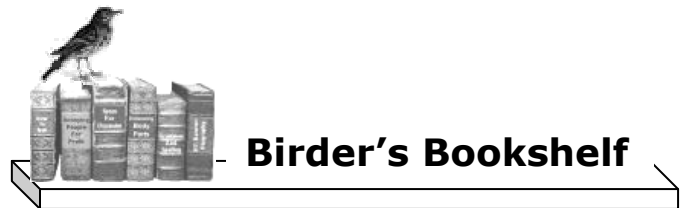
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Club Officers 2008-2009

President – Claire Romanak
Vice-president – Connie Decker
Secretary – Hildegard Kuse
Treasurer – Cam Scott

Other Club Contacts

Web site: www.chequamegonbirdclub.org
Email: info@chequamegonbirdclub.org
Newsletter Email: newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org
Bird sightings: Connie Decker



Birder’s Bookshelf

April – May Outdoors

- Full moon – May 8
- White-tailed deer bucks begin growing antlers
- House wrens, barn swallows, and purple martins return
- Little brown bats arrive
- Sandhill cranes begin laying eggs
- Goslings hatch
- Whip-poor-wills arrive (we hope!)
- Warblers arrive along with thrushes, tanagers, buntings, hummingbirds, pewees

The Birds Without Borders – Aves Sin Fronteras® Recommendations for Landowners: How to Manage Your Land to Help Birds

Victoria D. Piaskowski, Kari M. Williams, Gil K. Boese, PhD, and Paula A. Brookmire

This manual gives very good information about birds needs, what landowners can do to help them, and summarizes research at three study sites in Wisconsin. It includes habitat descriptions, information on predators, and some great color photos. The “what can you do” section goes beyond habitat needs and includes suggestions such as being active in conservation groups and getting people excited about birds.

Hard copies are available through the Zoological Society of Milwaukee or may be downloaded in .pdf format at: www.zoosociety.org/Conservation/BWB-ASF/WiLandowner.php