



# Chequamegon Chirps

## Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

January 2009

Volume 28 Number 1

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Date:** Monday, January 19, 2009

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Medford Public Library

**Program:** Winter Get-Together (Retry)

**Silent Auction:** Bring something new (or nearly new that you no longer want, but may be a real treasure for another person) to add to the Silent Auction table.

**Refreshments:** **Everyone** – Please bring cookies or other treat to share. Beverages will be furnished.



*Please bring your own mug for beverages.*

### **\$\$\$\$\$ Membership Dues \$\$\$\$\$**

Membership dues are payable now. Dues are \$18 for single or family membership at one address and can be paid at the meeting or mailed to the treasurer:

Cam Scott  
N3566 Grover Drive  
Withee WI 54498

Make check payable to *Chequamegon Bird Club*. We'd like to update our records, so please include name (or names - if family membership), address, phone number and e-mail address if you have one. Also indicate if you would like the Chirps emailed to you or if you prefer a paper copy – or both.

## Postponed Winter Get-Together

Because the December meeting was cancelled due to poor weather conditions, the Winter Get-Together and planned program will be held in January. The program will include a discussion of Christmas Bird Counts and other bird counts including:

- When and how they are conducted.
- Why we participate in them.
- What we learn from them.

We will also have a Silent Auction to raise funds for the club. Please bring items that you think might be of interest to other club members. New or gently used items are wanted. We won't tell if you donate that vase your niece gave you for Christmas last year but you know you'll never use. Maybe you did some holiday cleaning and found six identical cookie



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plates, even though you haven't baked Christmas cookies for ten years. Treasures of all sorts are welcome.

Speaking of cookies, everyone is asked to bring cookies – or some other treat – to share for refreshment time. Beverages will be furnished but bring your own cup. This reduces club costs and the waste of our natural resources.

## More Shopping with Birds in Mind

Last month we talked about shopping for fruits and vegetables with birds in mind, focusing on the impact our purchasing habits have on our neo-tropical migrants while they are in Central and South America during our winter.

This month we'll take a look the other direction, to the boreal forests of Canada and the northernmost part of the United States. The most recent issue of *Audubon* had an article about the importance of these forests as breeding habitat for many North American birds, including many of our winter visitors such as cross-bills, pine siskins, and redpolls, as well as many warblers, kinglets, and others that stop to visit us on their twice-yearly migrations. According to the article, "More than 300 species of birds breed in the boreal forest, and up to five billion – adults and their offspring – fly south from there each fall."

The major impact on the forest is from our colossal use of virgin paper, including much of the paper that goes into making the 20 billion catalogs we receive each year and many of the magazines we read – or get but don't read. Another huge portion of the virgin paper goes into manufacture of disposable paper products – toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissues, napkins, and so on. Kimberly-Clark, uses over 500,000 tons of Canadian virgin pulp in one year to make Kleenex and its other products.

### What can you do?

- Limit the number of catalogs you receive. Call companies that send you unwanted catalogs and ask to have your name taken off their list. If you would like to receive just a few catalogs from a company per year, some companies, such as LL Bean, are willing to accommodate you.
- "Do Not Mail" legislation similar to the "Do Not Call" lists has been proposed. Contact your legislators to support this legislation.
- There are several websites that can help: [www.catalogcutdown.org](http://www.catalogcutdown.org), [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org),



Common Redpoll

Louis Agassiz Fuertes Collection  
Cornell University

[www.directmail.com](http://www.directmail.com) (see link to National Do Not Mail List), and [www.OptOutPrescreen.com](http://www.OptOutPrescreen.com) (reduces credit card offers rather than catalogs) are some.

- Still feel the urge to shop? – product information is available on-line for most companies. No need for catalogs.
- Choose reusable products such as cloth napkins or handkerchiefs rather than disposables.
- Use paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, and other products made from recycled paper rather than virgin pulp.
- For a guide to boreal bird friendly paper products, go to

[www.borealbirds.org/birdshopguide/BirdFriendlyShoppersGuide.pdf](http://www.borealbirds.org/birdshopguide/BirdFriendlyShoppersGuide.pdf)

- And yes, the *Chirps* is printed on recycled paper.

Check out the rest of the Boreal Songbird Initiative website: [www.borealbirds.org](http://www.borealbirds.org) for lots of other interesting bird information.



## Bird Reports (November – December 2008)

Checklist observers: *Gayle Davis , Connie Decker , Ken Luepke , Hildegard and Loretta Kuse , Gordy Ruesch , Cathy Mauer , Greg and Cam Scott , Claire Romanak*

Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 53

- Cackling Goose (Scott), Canada Goose, Mallard
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey
- Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk (Davis), Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin (Decker / Luepke)
- American Coot, Sandhill Crane (Decker (late)), Killdeer (Decker / Luepke (late)), Ring-billed Gull
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove
- Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl (Decker / Luepke), Barred Owl
- 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, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet
- American Robin (Decker), European Starling, Cedar Waxwing
- American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow (Kuse), Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal,
- Brown-headed Cowbird (Luepke)
- Purple Finch, House Finch, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow

## Great Backyard Bird Count February 13-16, 2009

From the GBBC website:

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy — and it helps the birds.

Participants count birds anywhere for as little or as long as they wish during the four-day period. They tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time. To report their counts, they fill out an online checklist at the [Great Backyard Bird Count web site \(www.birdsource.org/gbbc\)](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc).

As the count progresses, anyone with Internet access can explore what is being reported from their own towns or anywhere in the United States and Canada. They can also see how this year's numbers



### F u n d r a i s e r

### Sunflower Seed Sale

**\$14.00 for 50#**  
(tax exempt)

*Compare & save – remember that most stores are now selling sunflower seed in 40# bags*

- locally grown
- order for friends & relatives
- pick up at January Bird Club meeting

**Call Connie by Monday noon to order.  
654- 5819**

*Bird Club makes \$2/bag.*

compare with those from previous years. Participants may also send in photographs of the birds they see. A selection of images is posted in the [online photo gallery](#). ... In 2008, participants reported more than 9.8 million birds of 635 species. They submitted more than 85,000 checklists, an all-time record for the count.

(If you would like to participate but don't have Internet access, contact Cathy Mauer.)



**Editor, Chequamegon Chirps**  
**N4416 Crane Dr.**  
**Medford WI 54451-9376**

«NAME»  
 «ADDRESS»  
 «CITY\_STATE\_ZIP»

**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



**Stamps for Birds**

One of our members recently donated several envelopes of canceled and uncanceled postage stamps. The Florida Audubon Society sells these stamps to raise money to rehabilitate injured birds of prey.

Remember to bring postage stamps, including the commemorative stamps used to mail the Chirps, to monthly meetings. The stamps do not need to have birds on them. Please cut stamps from envelopes at least 1/4" around stamps to avoid damage.

Our Bird Club will receive a letter from the Florida Audubon Society thanking us for our tax deductible contribution.

For more details, contact Willa Pledger.

**January - February Outdoors**

- Full moon – February 9
- Great Horned Owls courting and nesting
- Black-capped chickadees singing spring courtship song
- Red fox, wolves, coyotes, beaver, lynx, gray squirrels begin mating
- Horned larks begin migrating north
- Northern cardinals begin spring song
- Time to get nest boxes ready