



Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

June 2011

Volume 30 Number 6

NEXT MEETING:

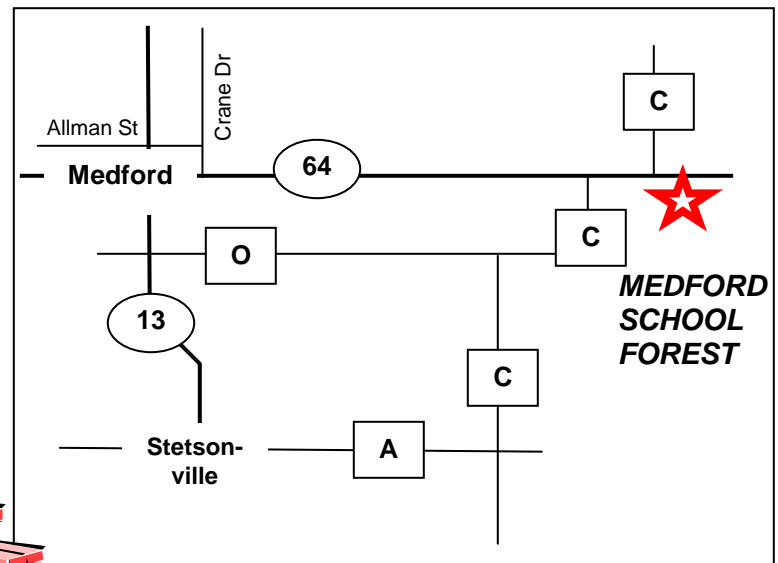
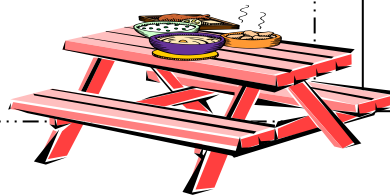
Date: Monday, June 20, 2011

Program: ANNUAL PICNIC
Potluck

Bring a dish to share and a beverage, plate, and utensils, plus a chair if you would like.

Location: Medford School Forest
South side of State Highway 64
About 9 miles east of State Hwy 13

Time: 5:00 p.m. Birding
6:30 p.m. Picnic



Annual Picnic – Medford School Forest

The Medford School Forest, located about nine miles east of Medford, has nice facilities for our annual picnic and pre-picnic birding. Trails and roads lead throughout the property, including to a small pond. We plan to eat outdoors, but Dodsworth Hall gives us a good place to move indoors if the weather doesn't cooperate. Mosquitoes are likely so you may want to bring repellent.

Because of road construction at the intersection of Highways 13 and 64, those coming to the picnic will need to avoid that intersection, which is expected to be completely closed. If coming from the south, you could take either County Rd A or County Rd O to County Rd C, then north to Highway 64. If coming from the north, you could take Allman St to Crane Dr, then south to Highway 64. Those coming from the west should be able to go around the intersection

by going north to Allman St.

The picnic is a potluck. We always have great food, but you will need to bring your own beverage, plate, and utensils. We plan to enjoy an evening fire, so bring marshmallows or other toastables if you would like.

We will meet near Dodsworth Hall about 5:00 for some pre-picnic birding, including a walk to the pond. For any who find the pond too far to walk, you can also drive there.

Hope to see you all there!

Other upcoming events – p. 4

Recent Activities

The Bird Club has been busy the past few weeks.

April 9: We had an exhibit at the **Northcentral Wisconsin Land Stewardship Conference**, which was held in Rib Lake. Club members Claire Romanak and Cathy Mauer presented a session on Birding and Creating Bird Habitats while Cam Scott and Joe Scott presented information to exhibit visitors.

May 1: The Bird Club was a co-sponsor of the film **“Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time”**. Other sponsors were the Broadway Theatre, Chequamegon Wildlife and Recreation Club, Perkins Place Gallery, and Taylor County Land Conservation Dept.

May 14: **International Migratory Bird Day and Wildflower Walk**. The first of this year’s “Walk on the Wild Side” outings was sponsored by the Bird Club and Perkins Place Gallery and held at the Perkinstown Winter Sports Area. Club members Gayle Davis and Joe Scott led participants on an Early Bird Walk along the trails and continued identifying birds during the wildflower walk led by US Forest Service Botanist Ann Hoefflerle. Club members also furnished snacks and beverages.

May 15: Club members Hildegard and Loretta Kuse held a nature day at their home, **Kuse Farm and Nature Center**, featuring many ways people can enjoy the nature and the outdoors. Kuses have developed many educational materials for use along the trails that wind through their property.

May 21: Members created a booth for the **Taylor County Youth Expo** and helped 350 fifth grade students from throughout Taylor County, as well as Phillips, Prentice, and Merrill, learn about birds and birdwatching. Thank you to Connie Decker, Ken Luepke, Willa Pledger, Claire Romanak, Larry Ruhde, Cam Scott, and Joe Scott for encouraging young people to develop an interest in birds.

May 22: A **McMillan Marsh Field Trip** gave members a memorable day, with several thunderstorms moving through the Marsh during the afternoon. One of the trip highlights was a raft of American White Pelicans that were enjoying some fishing while members enjoyed viewing them.

May 28: Joe Scott led a work day at the **School Woods** near the Medford Area High School. Cam Scott, John Marshall, Gordy Ruesch, Cathy Mauer, Megan Higgins, and Chris Finkler joined Joe to clear and improve trail and remove hazard trees, making the area more accessible to students and the public. Loretta and Hildegard Kuse furnished a delicious lunch to the workers.

June 11: **Celebrate Urban Birds** was the second “Walk on the Wild Side” this year. A Tree Identification and Discussion walk led by Scott Mueller, DNR Forester followed an Early Bird Walk in the Campus Woods with Gayle Davis, Claire Romanak, Joe Scott, and Doug Beilfuss identifying birds seen and heard. The bird walk included a lengthy discussion of a Red-eyed Vireo’s singing style, but the best bird display was during the tree walk – the resident Pileated Woodpeckers put on a vocal and visual show, including a young one peeking out of his nest hole. Activities moved to the Community Gardens area, where Master Gardener Nancy Grote gave great advice about planting apple trees, and a short bird count was held. The morning wound up with a wonderful bird art project. Nate Meyer of Perkins Place Gallery, a sponsor of the event along with the Bird Club, furnished precut and primed wooden bird cut-outs of nine species. Participants painted the birds, which were mounted on metal rods so they can be placed in gardens or other outdoor areas.



Cam Scott's Cedar Waxwing begins to come to life.

Bird Reports (April - May 2011)



Checklist observers: *Rhoda Barber , Gayle Davis , Connie Decker , Hildegard and Loretta Kuse , Ken Luepke , Cathy Mauer , Gordy Ruesch , Doug and Willa Pledger , Claire Romanak , Cam Scott , Joe Scott and Jon Zellmer .*

Total number of species observed this month: 210

(Only names of observers for rare or unusual sightings are included in the list below.)

- Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Black-bellied Whistling Duck** (Luepke), Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon , American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal , Northern Shoveler , Northern Pintail , Green-winged Teal , Canvasback , Redhead , Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse (Multiple observers), Greater Prairie-Chicken (Decker/Luepke/Zellmer), Wild Turkey
- Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe (Multiple observers), American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant
- American Bittern, Least Bittern (Luepke), Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron
- Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk (Davis/J. Scott), Red-shouldered Hawk (Multiple observers), Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle (Decker/Luepke/Zellmer), American Kestrel, Merlin (Davis/Pledger), Peregrine Falcon (Luepke/Romanak/Ruhde)
- Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane (Decker/Luepke/Zellmer)
- Killdeer
- Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper (Romanak), Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher (Luepke), Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Wilson's Phalarope
- Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Common Tern (Romanak), Forster's Tern, Black Tern
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl
- Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher
- Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker
- Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (Zellmer), Acadian Flycatcher (Romanak), Alder Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird
- Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo
- Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven
- Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow
- Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper
- House Wren, Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren
- Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin
- Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird * (Decker/Luepke/Zellmer), Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing
- Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Cerulean Warbler (Romanak/Ruhde), Black and White Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler (Romanak), Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush (Romanak), Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, Kentucky Warbler (Romanak),
- Scarlet Tanager
- Eastern Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow (Romanak), Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow (Romanak), Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco
- Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak (see note below) **** (Pledger), Indigo Bunting
- Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole (Luepke/Romanak/Ruhde), Northern Oriole
- Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak (Barber /Mauer/Ruesch), House Sparrow

**** *If the report of a male and female Black-headed Grosbeak were documented and accepted by W.S.O. (Wisconsin Society for Ornithology), they would be the 18th and 19th individuals for this species ever recorded in Wisconsin. There have been no records since 2002, (records date back to the mid 1800s). This would be a first record for a pair to occur in the state. The female of this species is very difficult (due to plumage variation) to differentiate from the female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, of which there have been only three records ever for Wisconsin.*



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«FIRST_NAME» «LAST_NAME»
 «STREET_ADDRESS»
 «CITY» «STATE» «ZIP_CODE»

Club Officers

President – Claire Romanak
Vice-president – Connie Decker
Secretary – Gayle Davis
Treasurer – Cam Scott

Other Club Contacts

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 (Cathy Mauer, editor)
Bird sightings: Connie Decker



Upcoming Events

June – July Outdoors

- Lightning bugs twinkling
- June 21 – Summer Solstice
- Blue-winged Teal young begin hatching
- Some wildflowers start going to seed while others are just beginning to bloom
- July 4 – Aphelion (Earth is farthest from the Sun)
- Painted turtles begin hatching
- Cicadas can be heard, especially on warm days
- Sandhill Crane chicks and many other young birds begin learning to fly
- “Fall” shorebird migration begins
- July 15 – Full Moon

June 23 (Thursday): Sportsman’s Lake, Owen
 Meet at 5:30 p.m. in the parking lot on the south side of the lake for birding and checking for potential sites for a blind. Sportsman’s Lake is along County Rd DD in Clark County. (Taylor County Rd D becomes DD.) The parking lot is off Pine Rd on the south side of the flowage. The entrance is not marked. Look for a narrow road through the conifers.

June 26 (Sunday): Jackson County and Other Stops Field Trip
 This trip will include stops at various birding sites as we work our way to Jackson County to look for Chuck-will’s-widows in late evening. More details will be discussed at the picnic. You can also contact Cathy Mauer, 715-748-3160, for more information.