

Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

March 2010

Volume 29 Number 3

NEXT MEETING:

Date: Monday, March 15, 2010

Time: 7:00 p.m.

**Location: Medford Public Library
400 N Main St
Medford**

**Program: Spring is Coming
Everyone**

Refreshments: Rhoda Barber & Pam Stange

Please bring your own mug for beverages.



March Program – Spring is Coming



My grandfather said the robins return for St. Patrick's Day, and for many of us the first robin is a sure sign of spring. But robins aren't the only birds, or even the first, to return as soon as there is a hint of spring. For our March meeting we will discuss the birds we look forward to seeing, what bird activities catch our interest in spring, where we like to go spring birdwatching, and any other spring-related bird topics that come up.

Reminders/Upcoming Events

- April Meeting – Annual Election of Officers
 - The club needs officers, program committee, and other volunteers if we are going to continue to be an active, viable organization.
- Northcentral Wisconsin Land Stewardship Conference – Saturday, April 10
 - Register by March 19 for early-bird discount
 - See p. 3 for more information
- Students Day at Taylor County Fairgrounds – May 21
 - We will once again have a booth and will need volunteers to help out.
- Medford Friends of Downtown Birding Hotspots Tour – June 17
 - We will need volunteers to help with the tour.
- Bluebird Trails – April and rest of summer
 - Volunteers are needed to check that boxes are in good shape and also to monitor boxes during the nesting season.
- Bring aluminum for recycling.
- Ideas for programs and articles for the *Chirps* are always appreciated. Contact Cathy.

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Protecting Birds and Other Wildlife in Afghanistan

Even amongst the war and turmoil in Afghanistan, there is reason to find hope. Afghanistan's National Environment Protection Agency recently added the Large-billed Reed Warbler to its list of protected species. The warbler is one of the world's rarest birds and had only been documented twice before, the first time in 1867 in India, the second time in 2006 when a single bird was identified in Thailand. Then, in 2008, a researcher with the Wildlife Conservation Society, based in New York, found one of the tiny, olive-brown warblers during a wildlife survey and taped its distinctive song. Later, a research team caught and released 20 of the birds — the largest number ever recorded. The only known breeding area is in the Pamir Mountains in Badakhshan province in northeastern Afghanistan, near China.

In addition to the warbler, the agency added fourteen other species to the protected list. It now includes 48 species including the rare snow leopard, the Asiatic cheetah and the markhor, a type of wild goat with large spiral horns.



Large-billed Reed Warbler
Oriental Bird Club image

Robert Service and Birds

The Elson Reader excerpt that Ron Shiffler gave me (see the February *Chirps* for part of the excerpt) led me to several poems about birds, including one by Robert Service. Service is, of course, best known for his poems of the Yukon, such as “The Cremation of Sam McGee”. He must also have had a soft spot for birds.

“Bird Sanctuary” by Robert Service

Between the cliff-rise and the beach
A slip of emerald I own;
With fig and olive, almond, peach,
cherry and plum-tree overgrown;
Glad-watered by a crystal spring
That carols through the silver night,
And populous with birds who sing
Gay madrigals for my delight.

Some merchants fain would buy my land
To build a stately pleasure dome.
Poor fools! they cannot understand
how pricelessly it is my home!



If you have a bird poem or story you would like to share in the *Chirps*, please contact Cathy.

So luminous with living wings,
So musical with feathered joy . . .
Not for all pleasure fortune brings,
Would I such ecstasy destroy.

A thousand birds are in my grove,
Melodious from morn to night;
My fruit trees are their treasure trove,
Their happiness is my delight.
And through the sweet and shining days
They know their lover and their friend;
So I will shield in peace and praise
My innocents unto the end.

Bird Reports (January 2010 – February 2010)



Checklist observers: *Gayle Davis, Connie Decker, Hildegard and Loretta Kuse, Ken Luepke, Doug and Willa Pledger, and Cam Scott.*

CBC Check List Species and Observers for Feb. 2010

(Note: Only observers for rare or unusual sightings are included.)

Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 50

- Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan (Davis), Mallard, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey
- Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle (Decker / Luepke), American Kestrel
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove
- Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl (Decker/Luepke), Barred Owl
- Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker * (Multiple observers), Northern Flicker, 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, European Starling
- American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur (Decker/Luepke), Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal
- Red-winged Blackbird (Davis), Brown-headed Cowbird (Decker/Luepke)
- Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow

NORTHCENTRAL WISCONSIN

Land Stewardship Conference

Saturday
April 10, 2010
7:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Prentice High School
1025 Town St.
Prentice, Wisconsin

**Early Bird
Registration:
\$38/Person
(postmarked by
March 19)**

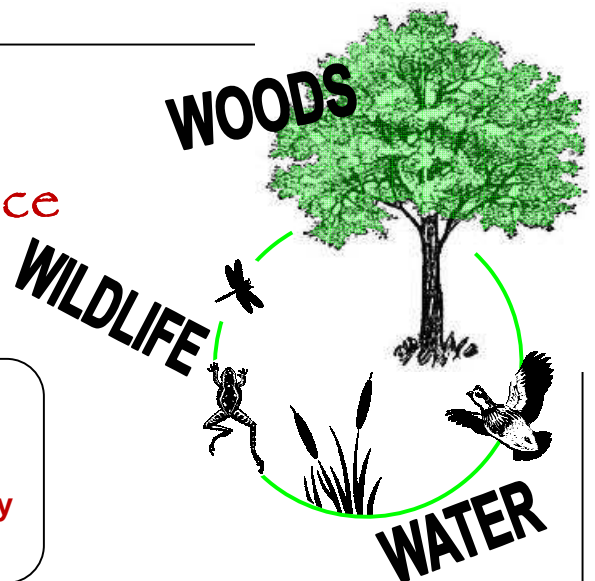
Regular Registration \$45/Person
includes materials & lunch

Registration deadline is April 2.

For information or to register, contact:

Price County UW-Extension 715-339-2555 or
Taylor County UW-Extension 715-748-3327
Online at www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/price

25 breakout sessions are offered. Of special interest to bird club members are sessions on forest raptors, the value of woody debris, landscaping with native plants, native pollinators, vernal pools, and phenology. Other topics include forest management, legal issues, invasive species, kids in the woods, & more.



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«FIRST_NAME» «LAST_NAME»
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Club Officers 2009-2010

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

March - April Outdoors

- Spring equinox – March 20
- Full (Worm) moon – March 29
- Killdeer, meadowlarks, ducks, phoebes, herons, thrushes, kingfishers, swans ,, arrive
- Canada geese begin laying eggs
- Pine marten, wolf, lynx young are born
- Woodcocks begin peenting
- Frogs and salamanders begin emerging
- Spring peepers and chorus frogs begin calling
- Big brown bats begin arriving
- Skunk cabbage begin blooming
- Ruffed grouse begin drumming
- Bald eagles begin nesting



Birder's Bookshelf

Birds of Eastern North America: A Photographic Guide

by Paul Sterry & Brian E. Small

I generally do not go to a photographic field guide as my first choice for identifying an unknown bird. I find drawings/paintings are often better at emphasizing or pointing out necessary details for identification. But I do have several photo guides. This book is my newest and has some of the best photos I've seen in such a guide. The photos are also a bit larger than in most of the other guides. Another bonus is that the book includes photos of plumages that are often not included in other bird guides – females, non-breeding birds, and juveniles.

Small is the photo editor of *Birding* magazine. Sterry is the author of numerous other bird, wildlife, and nature books.

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