



Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

September 2011

Volume 30 Number 9

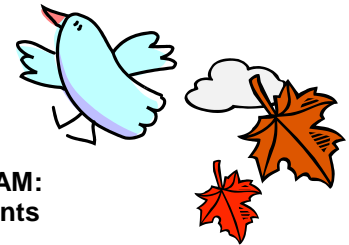
NEXT MEETING:

Date: Monday, September 19, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Medford Public Library
400 N Main St
Medford

Program: Fall Migration and Migrants
All club members



SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: Fall Migration & Migrants

Identification of fall migrants, including the infamous “confusing fall warblers”, can be challenging. We’ll discuss some of these i.d. challenges, as well as why birds bother to migrate and what triggers their departure. Bring your questions and observations to the September meeting, along with your field guide.

~~~~~ Annual Banquet ~~~~~ Time to make your reservation!

WHEN: Monday, October 17

TIME: 6:00 p.m. Pre-Dinner Get-Together
6:30 p.m. Dinner

WHERE: Multi-purpose Building
Taylor County Fairgrounds

MENU:

Baked Chicken
Beef Tips in Gravy
Garlic Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy
Buttered Baby Carrots
Coleslaw
Dinner Rolls
Brownie Sundae Bar
Coffee, Milk

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:

Ryan Brady, Wisconsin DNR Research Scientist
“Birds of the Chequamegon Bay” (see p.2)

COST: \$15.00

BRING PAYMENT TO SEPTEMBER MEETING OR
MAIL PAYMENT TO:

Cam Scott
N3566 Grover Drive
Withee WI 54498

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Chequamegon Bird Club

RESERVATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER
THAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 10.

phone: 715-785-7614

e-mail: cam@sws-wis.com

Banquet Speaker – Ryan Brady, Wisconsin DNR

The speaker this year at our annual banquet will be Ryan Brady, who is a Research Scientist in the Bureau of Wildlife Management for the Dept. of Natural Resources. He is also on the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative Research Committee and is their Bird Monitoring Coordinator. As such, he coordinates surveys for Nightjars, Marshbirds, Owls, and Red-shouldered Hawks. Ryan also helped to establish a Wisconsin page on Ebird, an online citizen based monitoring tool, and is on the Wisconsin Ebird Team. As an accomplished bird photographer, his photos often appear on the photo quiz page of Ebird. Ryan currently resides in Ashland, Wisconsin and will be speaking to us about the Birds of the Chequamegon Bay.



Yellow-breasted Chat

Ryan Brady Photo

Hummingbird's "Song"

A recent study of hummingbird songs was published in *Science*. As most of you know, hummingbirds engage in some interesting courtship flights and make a variety of chirping-type sounds. According to the study, some of their songs are made by air rushing across the bird's tail feathers. Adjacent feathers can modulate the volume or frequency of the sound.

Also, some of the tail "songs" are very similar to their vocal songs. Here is a link to a *New York Times* report on the study, including a video:

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/09/08/a-hummingbirds-musical-tail/>

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 24

Field Trip to REGI and Birds in Art

The **Chequamegon Bird Club** will again be sponsoring a field trip to the Raptor Education Group in Antigo, along with a stop at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau to view the Birds in Art Exhibit. We will carpool from a central location in Medford, leaving no later than 8:15 a.m., as we are scheduled to tour the REGI facility at 10 a.m. While there, we will also have an opportunity to examine their newly constructed Chimney Swift tower, donated by the Wausau Bird Club. After our tour at REGI, those interested can carpool to the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, stopping for lunch along the way. The Birds in Art Exhibit is internationally known, and many excellent artists have their works represented there. If you are interested in this field trip, please sign up at the Sept. 19th meeting or call Claire Romanak at 715-257-1905 or email her at ribriver2@wildblue.net for the decided upon meeting place.



Owl on 2009 REGI Field Trip

Claire Romanak Photo

September 29 – October 1 Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative Annual Meeting – Green Bay

Thursday's program focuses on monitoring, Friday's on research, and Saturday's on "Becoming a better birder and citizen scientist" and includes a field trip option in the afternoon.

See more at <http://wsobirds.org/?p!60> and at <http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/annualmeeting.htm>

Bird Reports (July – August 2011)



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

Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 131

(Note: Only observers for rare or unusual sightings are listed below. Bullet points are for ease of reading and do not always separate families.)

- Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan (Lueoke/Rickerts), Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey
- Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant
- American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black-Crowned Night Heron (Luepke)
- Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk (Mauer/Ruesch), Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon (Luepke)
- Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane (Luepke)
- Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock
- Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Forster's Tern, Black Tern
- Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo (Mauer /Ruesch/J. Scott)
- 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, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird
- Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo
- Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark
- Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow
- Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch
- House Wren, Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren
- Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin
- Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing
- Golden-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager
- Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel
- Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Oriole
- Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow



**BRING YOUR
FIELD GUIDE(S)
FOR
DISCUSSIONS**

We usually talk about different birds at our meetings. Having a field guide with you will give you the opportunity to become familiar with the birds being discussed.



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

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

Club Officers 2011-2012

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

Other Club Contacts

- Web site: www.chequamegonbirdclub.org
- Email: info@chequamegonbirdclub.org
- Newsletter Email: newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org
 (Cathy Mauer, editor)
- Bird sightings: Connie Decker

September – October Outdoors

- Full moon – September 12
- Autumnal Equinox – September 22
- Orion is observable in the southern sky
- Trumpeter Swan cygnets learning to fly
- Whooping Cranes begin migrating
- Leaves turning color
- Little Brown Bats depart
- Dark-eyed Juncos arrive
- White-tailed bucks begin making scrapes and rubs
- Frogs begin burrowing into mud
- Wood Ducks migrate
- Eastern Phoebes are gone until spring



Naturalist’s Bookshelf

The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating
 By Elizabeth Tova Bailey

When I read this book recently, I tried to allow myself to read only one chapter a day because I wanted to keep enjoying it. Sometimes I cheated. When Bailey was ill and bed-bound, a friend brought her a land snail. The book weaves Bailey’s careful observations with the natural history of the snail and her own gradual recovery. To be able to take such delight in a tiny creature like the snail is a gift and to share that delight with her readers is a gift to all of us. We so often get caught up in looking for grand experiences or thinking we need to travel far to discover the wonders of our natural world. Bailey disproves that in this beautiful book. I will be reading it again myself as well as sharing it with others.

-CM