Bird walk at six—weather permitting

7 p.m. meeting Monday September 17th at the Medford Library

In addition to “What’s Around and a short business meeting, the topic will be

**Feathers—Illegal procurement driven by the fly fishing trade**

Joe has watched a podcast from The American Life program which he feels will interest us as a club. This program highlights the illegal trade of feathers, some of which are particularly attractive to fly fishermen. This in turn drives a lucrative black market—to the detriment of some colorful bird species. Odd what the human species does in the pursuit of money without regard to how it may impact other living animals.

**Advance info for the October banquet**

Tickets at $15 may be purchased from Cam Scott at September meeting

Or order from her by September 8 at 715-785-7614

Monday October 15, 2018

Abby Bank 215 South 8th Street Medford (west side of Highway 13)

Social hour 6:00 p.m. meal at 6:30

Meal catered by Marilyn’s of Medford

Choice of traditional or Chicken Alfredo Lasagna

Cesar Salad

Bread with garlic butter

Desserts

Beverage

Speaker—Steve Petznick—You and your binoculars
The presenter for the banquet, Steve Petznick has asked, in addition to speaking about binoculars that we bring our spotting scopes and binoculars to this session for suggestions and evaluation of their condition. That’s nice, somewhat like having a free appendix operation included with a physical exam. Steve is a retired naturalist with nearly 30 years of work experience. He has led many hikes and bird trips over this time and founded the North-east Wisconsin Birding Club. He has field tested and critiqued Pro Master Steiner and Peregrine series binoculars. Currently he is the author of a bi-monthly column for the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology. It should be an informative evening with fine food and fellowship. Hope to see you there.

Last month 27 members and visitors enjoyed Vanessa Hillenbrand’s presentation about Monarch Butterflies. Maybe because of her program or it being the peak of their migration, I’ve sure noticed more Monarchs and other butterflies on or near roads as I’ve traveled recently. The weekly Tribune-Phonograph posted a front page photograph of a remarkable concentration of Monarchs west of Colby and Loretta and Hildegard also had a gathering by them. Hopefully these are indications this species is increasing.

Most of us received five to six inches of rain the night of September 4-5. We can only hope migrating butterflies and other creatures escaped that deluge or found excellent protection. I’m kind of a numbers nerd and for the heck of it, started to figure out how much that much rain would weigh over an acre and square mile. The results are borderline nuts, but I do have faith in my little hand-held calculator. A cubic foot of water weighs 62.4 pounds and one inch of that weighs 5.2 pounds. An acre is 43,560 square feet or about 208 feet on a side. Therefore, one acre inch of water weighs 226,512 pounds or 113,256 tons. Now here is where the number get really crazy. There are 640 acres per square mile which equals 72,483.84 tons for one inch of rain. We had, lets say, five and one half inches of rain. The tonnage is now nearly 400,000 tons of rain per square mile. That is for only one square mile. How many miles did that storm cover? Consider that other parts of the state have recently had rain totals double to possibly triple these 5.5 inch figures I would be interested in having others run these figures to make sure they are reasonably accurate. If not, I apologize, but still had fun playing around with the numbers. Another way of looking at that would be to think, “I wonder if that guy has enough sense to come in out of the rain?”

Informative websites—

birdsna.org (fee) Cornell Lab of Ornithology (free) allaboutbirds.org ebird.org (free)
Tips to Improve your ID Skills
Alvaro Jaramillo recently had these tips in the Bird Watcher’s Digest

**Watch common birds.** Look at them in detail. Where is a Chickadee black? What is the shape of its bell? How are the legs of a Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch different? Can you describe the plumage of a House Sparrow in detail? Finding out these facts will make you a better overall birder.

**Involve birding in your day-to-day life.** Carry binoculars and a bird book in your car. Try including bird watching time in your daily activities.

**Find birders whose company you enjoy.** Why not make it a social event? You could even join a club. Or go for a short pre-meeting walk before the September meeting.

**Use imagery.** Study field guides .apps, Internet sites.

**Use a notebook.** Take notes which helps to recall details.

**Draw.** It doesn’t have be artistic and can be only for you. Again it helps to recall details.

**Have fun.** Don’t make it a chore. Relax. Enjoy.

---

**Feather Facts**

“Down and contour feathers help birds fly and keep them warm. Down is a small soft feather found beneath outer feathers of waterfowl. Down has no central shaft. The silky fibers grow outward from a common center. Contour feathers are the large feathers that cover wings, body and tail. A contour feather has a strong flexible center shaft with the lower end called the quill. The rhachis, or upper end of the shaft supports the web or vane, the flat part of the feather. The web is made up of and held together by parts called barbs, barbules and hooklets. Barbs branch out from the shafts like the branches of a tree. Several hundred barbules branch out from each barb. The hooklets interlock with those on nearby barbules and hold the web together.” from the World Book Encyclopedia
CLUB CONTACTS

Website: Chequamegonbirdclub.org
Information: info@chequamegonbirdclub.org
Newsletter: newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org
Bird sightings: connie1@charter.net

September-October highlights

Full moons 9-25 and 10-24
Fall equinox September 23
Enjoy beautiful Indian Summer days
Fall color increases
Birds in Art exhibit open
Obvious fall migration continues