

ChequamegonChirps



August 2025 Volume 43 Number 8

Our August meeting will be on the 18th, third Monday of the month at W6219 Allman Ave. This is at the Kuse home/wildlife preserve located on the west side of Medford. This learning center is the result of years of time, effort, and resource allocation by late sisters Hildegard and Loretta Kuse. Their lifetime dedication as hands on nature educators and learning as a continuing potential is a gift to all of us. If you haven't visited this local resource before, the 18th would be an excellent time to do so. There will be a bird and nature walk at 6:30 with the meeting to follow at 7:00. The meeting will have information and opportunities for input on the annual October banquet. We are also looking for member input on memorable bird experiences and potential Chirps articles. The yearly list for Wisconsin birds identified by Chequamegon Bird Club members will be on hand so it will be a good time to update this club information.

Hope to see you there.

When the answer to questions are more questions

That can be frustrating. Your thoughts can range from *Hey, I just want an answer, not more questions.* Or your thoughts may lean to, *That is interesting, I hadn't considered that possibility, or I wonder what might cause that to happen or why did this or that produce such results. I wonder?* Maybe that is one of the attractions of birding. It can give you time to observe, learn, wonder about whos or whys at the same time you are focusing on sound, movement, color, shape of something as common as a house sparrow or starling to discovering a new lifetime bird or experience.

According to a nationwide survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a third of American adults are birdwatchers. "Around 96 million people in the U.S. closely observed, fed or, or photographed birds; visited public parks to view birds; or maintained plantings and natural areas around their home for the benefit of birds

in 2022.” There has been a worldwide birding boom in the years since the Covid outbreak in 2020. “Cornell Lab of Ornithology participatory-science programs, like the Merlin Bird ID app and eBird, also reflect the heightened interest in avian affairs. For example, as of March 2023 there were more than 1.5 million active Merlin users in the U.S., a fivefold increase from the 300,000 Merlin users in March 2020. Likewise, eBird monthly checklist submissions have doubled from 600,000 checklists in March 2020 to 1.3 million by May 2023.”

“The USEWS survey also show that birding business. More than six out of every ten dollars spent in 2022 on wildlife-related recreation (which also includes hunting and fishing) came from wildlife watching, with birds cited as the greatest focus for wildlife watchers. Altogether, wildlife watchers spent more than \$250 billion last year to engage in their hobby-including more than \$24 billion on equipment such as binoculars, cameras, and bird food-for an average of \$2,188 per person.”

“Sometimes that spending can add up just by virtue of a single rare bird. A 2023 study published in the journal *People and Nature* documented that when a Steller’s Sea-Eagle showed up on the New England coast in the winter of 2023 beager birders pumped more than \$750,000 into the economies of Maine and Massachusetts.”

“Amanda Rodewald, senior director of the Center for Avian Population Studies at the Cornell Lab, says the report is an important source of information to share with elected officials and shows just how many of their constituents care about the environment and conservation.”

(side note here) Wisconsin has offered some remarkable bird species recently. According to this data, this should have given local economies a significant boost. What if local bird club members reported an ivory-billed woodpecker in the area and then received a percentage of local gross income increase? Some questions are just too goofy or dumb to receive a serious response but I thought I’d throw that out for the heck of it. If it were taken seriously--which it shouldn’t. Just a WAG thought. They happen sometimes.

Information odds and ends

My small mind admires, but has yet to comprehend the scope of information being assembled and organized with modern technology that continues to expand exponentially. *Think of a turtle left in a cloud of dust who doesn’t even know which way they went.*

Recently I was piddling around with Google and found out that starting Fri, Aug 8, 2025 at 8:20 PM CDT and ending Sat, Aug 9 2025, 5:50 AM CDT approximately 7,000 birds crossed Wisconsin in migration that night. If I interpreted the data correctly; these numbers, the early stage of fall migration, most likely would include northern house wren, willow fly catcher, wood thrush, ovenbird dickcissel, eastern wood-pewee, alder flycatcher, yellow-throated vireo, warbling vireo, least sandpiper, scarlet tanager, semipalmated plover, green heron and veery, who are nocturnally migrating species. Birds usually begin to migrate 30 to minutes after sunset, with the greatest number in flight two to three hours later.



While geeking out about numbers, trends, history, and potential future possibilities, being outside on a lawn chair while enjoying a fine glass of pinot noir, in the woods, on your lifetime bird trip, or listening through an open window bringing a balance to what is. What is. Consider the depth in those two *words*. *Think about it. Trish O’Kane did and produced the book Birding to Change the World.* How we think, perceive what we see, hear, feel, all influence our worlds. Cornell University’s *All About Birds* is an excellent place to start. She recommends this book. For those who see the world as full of doom and gloom, her advice is: keep looking up. Good for all of us. Happy birding.

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AUGUST and SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Migration dramatically increases

Departures and passers through

Early arrivals?

Full moons Aug 9 and Sept 7

Regional heterothermy: Capability

To let some parts of the body get cold while

Maintaining core body temperature.

