

# Chequamegon Chirps



Medford, Wisconsin

February 20, 2017

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## 7 pm Medford Library

Joe Scott will present a program about Red-shouldered Hawks. Part of his work involves locating their nests in Price and Taylor Counties. This information is then used to select where area logging is permitted without disturbing their nests or rearing of their young. Joe's personal experiences with this small forest buteo plus tips for identification should be an interesting presentation. This will be Joe's third attempt to do this program. The other two attempts were thwarted do to conditions beyond his control. With three times the preparation, we know this will be a rip-roaring, outstanding program. If the machine which provides the visuals should quit working, Joe will finish the program using hand shadow puppets and interpretive dance.

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## The Great Backyard Bird Count

The 20<sup>th</sup> year of the Great Backyard Bird Count sponsored by the Cornell University Department of Ornithology is scheduled for February 17 to 20, 2017 which is this coming weekend. This uncomplicated exercise has had an explosion of participation as it concludes its second decade. The 2016 statistics are as follows: 162,052 checklists were submitted, 5,698 species observed and 18,637,974 individuals counted in 100 countries. Those are amazing numbers provided by ordinary birders of all levels of skills that can provide significant data for scientific research.

There are three things for you to do to participate. Go to [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). The first step is to register for the count. The second step is to count birds for at least a 15 minute block of time on one or more of the four days. This can be counting the birds that come to your feeder during that time, but it isn't limited to that. Finally, enter your results at the web site. That's it. It is very user friendly and answers potential questions. The timing is great so we can discuss how it worked for us at the February meeting.

## 2016 Audubon Christmas Bird Counts organized by local compilers

Summary 2016	Clam Lake 12-23	Gilman 01-01	Medford 12-26	Owen 01-02	Spencer 12-18	Willard 12-27
Party Hours	32.5	42.25	40.5	50.5	62	48.5
Total Species	25	31	36	38	35	30
Total Individuals	1246	2842	4365	9533	4154	4121
Canada Goose			1			
Wood Duck			1			
Mallard			245	1	2	
Ring-necked Pheasant		1		6	4	1
Ruffed Grouse	3	15	8	1	2	8
Wild Turkey	4	148	167	448	70	154
Bald Eagle	3	18	14	27	15	21
Eagle species						2
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1	1		2	
Cooper's Hawk		1		1	2	
Accipiter Species					1	
Red-tailed Hawk		6	5	15	22	12
Rough-legged Hawk		7	1	7	3	7
American Kestrel			2	11	4	7
Merlin				1		
Rock Pigeon		366	357	721	432	415
Mourning Dove	9	69	102	234	231	307
Barred Owl		1			3	
Belted Kingfisher	1					
Red-bellied Woodpecker		9	17	31	34	22
Downy Woodpecker	8	45	33	90	75	65
Hairy Woodpecker	16	31	28	53	38	16
Northern Flicker				2		
Pileated Woodpecker	2	7	5	5	3	10
Northern Shrike	1	3	7	5	2	4
Blue Jay	10	107	22	271	194	175
American Crow	47	203	625	329	323	679
Common Raven	34	16	10	7		14
Horned Lark				10	36	10
Black-capped Chickadee	209	345	467	796	546	445
Tufted Titmouse				3		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	12	2	8	6	2	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	11	51	38	94	54	64
Brown Creeper			CW			
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	1				
American Robin	CW	1	7	1	9	

Summary 2016	Clam Lake 12-23	Gilman 01-01	Medford 12-26	Owen 01-02	Spencer 12-18	Willard 12-27
European Starling		632	1471	4538	427	771
Bohemian Waxwing	23					
Cedar Waxwing			9			
American Tree Sparrow		12	29	46	176	136
Dark-eyed Junco	5	29	28	156	289	273
Snow Bunting			25	188	154	
Northern Cardinal	1	9	7	55	46	53
Rusty Blackbird		1				
Brown-headed Cowbird					3	
Purple Finch	7		16	16	4	14
House Finch			10	23	6	6
White-winged Crossbill	147					
Common Redpoll	557			1		
Pine Siskin	9		1	26		10
American Goldfinch	124	433	188	192	185	134
Evening Grosbeak			8			
House Sparrow		272	399	1116	755	284

**CW indicates count week species**

**You can view current and historical Audubon Christmas Count data on the internet to compare all counts.**

*Thank you to everyone who participated in the counts this year.*

*This summary compiled by Ken Luepke and Connie Decker*

Count compilers are : Keith Merkel : Clam Lake  
 Gayle Davis : Owen  
 Joe Scott : Medford  
 Ken Luepke : Spencer / Willard / Gilman

The counts--from left to right—are listed in a north to south sequence. Different species show a consistent pattern of increasing or declining numbers as you go north or south. It isn't as neat of a pattern as it is in some years. Weather was a factor. Spencer had by far the coldest day which started at minus 25 and "warmed" up to minus nine. One year Clam Lake started out at minus 40 and stayed cold. Surveys done over years help to even out bumps caused by extreme temperatures and other weather abnormalities. Counters, young to old with all levels of experience brave the weather to collect valuable data.

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## CLUB CONTACTS

Website: [Chequamegonbirdclub.org](http://Chequamegonbirdclub.org)  
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Bird sightings: [connie1@charter.net](mailto:connie1@charter.net)

### February & March Outdoors

Full moon 2-10 and 3-12

Days are noticeably longer.

Maple sap should flow within four to six weeks.

Early arrivals: Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds,  
Kingfishers, and more will arrive.

Horned Lark numbers are now increasing.

The trapeze itself

Kingfisher swings

tree to tree

Fish catch in his fall



Illustration from *A Guide to Birding*. Forshaw et al. 1994.