

# Chequamegon Chirps



Medford, Wisconsin    January 16, 2017    Volume 36 Number 1

## 7 pm Medford Library

The January program will be about Red-shouldered Hawks presented by Joe Scott. 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. Joe will have personal experiences of this small forest buteo plus tips for identification.

Another topic of the evening will be some of the highlights of the recently completed six Christmas Bird Counts. Neither sleet, snow, rain, extreme cold or glare ice road conditions kept the counters from their appointed rounds. (Well, mostly) At times it was a sporting proposition just to get out of the house to get to a designated area. Really, it wasn't as bad as I'm making it sound when you consider we had warm clothes, heated cars to ride in and warm food waiting for us at the end of the day when we compiled results with friends. That doesn't include some of the road conditions at times.

It make me more appreciate the winged wonders we counted who survive such conditions with only feathers and food they can find that day. The Spencer count started out at minus 25 and "warmed up" to minus 9. Birds were definitely fluffier that day. In the book 1001 Questions Answered about Birds, it states "In cold weather birds fluff their feathers until their bulk is almost trebled. This insulates them against the cold and at the same time prevents the loss of body heat." Their caloric input per gram of weight is enormous to keep up their internal temperatures. "To eat like a bird" to mean minimal intake is a complete misnomer. If we ate like birds we would soon be blimp sized and be only able to waddle about let alone consider flying. "The high temperatures maintained through high rates of metabolism are the highest of any living animal. Birds live at such an intense rate that most songbirds survive less than two years." While their lives are brief, birds bring so much joy and pleasure to our lives through their activities, color and songs when they come to our feeders or when we are observing them out in natural settings. It feels good to aid feathered friends who bring us brightness at any time.

## 257 Bird species identified by club members in Wisconsin for 2016

**Geese**-Greater White-fronted, Snow, Ross's, Cackling, Canada. **Swans**-Mute, Trumpeter, Tundra. **Ducks**-Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked, Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck. **Partridge**-Gray. **Pheasant**-Ring-necked. **Grouse**-Ruffed, Spruce, Sharp-tailed, Greater Prairie-Chicken. **Turkey**-Wild. **Loon**-Common **Grebes**-Pied Billed, Horned. **Pelican**-American White. **Cormorant**-Double-crested. **Herons**-Great Blue, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron. **Bittern**-American Bittern, Least Bittern. **Hawks**-Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged, Red-tailed, Rough-legged, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon. **Vulture**-Turkey. **Rails**-Sora. **Gallinules**-American Coot, Purple Gallinule, **Cranes**-Sandhill, Whooping. **Plovers**-Black-bellied, American Golden, Semipalmated, Killdeer. **Stilt**-Black-necked. **Avocet**-American. **Sandpipers**-Spotted, Solitary, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Dunlin, Upland Sandpiper, Semipalmated, Least, Baird's, Pectorial, Dunlin, Stilt, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Wilson's Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope. **Jaegers**-Parasitic. **Gulls**-Little, Bonapartes, Ring-billed, Herring, Lesser Black-backed, Sabines. **Terns**-Caspian, Black. **Doves**-Rock Pigeon, Mourning, White-winged, Eurasian Collared Dove. **Cuckoos**-Yellow Billed, Black Billed. **Owls**-Eastern Screech, Great Horned, Snowy, Barred, Short-eared. **Goatsuckers**- Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will. **Swift**-Chimney. **Hummingbird**-Ruby-throated. **Kingfisher**-Belted. **Woodpeckers**-Red-headed, Red-bellied, Yellow bellied Sapsucker, Downy, Hairy, Northern Flicker, Pileated. **Flycatchers**-Olive sided, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian, Alder, Willow, Least, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested, Eastern Kingbird. **Shrikes**-Northern, Loggerhead. **Vireos**-Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Warbling, Philadelphia, Red-eyed. **Corvids**-Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven. **Lark**-Horned. **Swallows**-Purple Martin, Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Bank, Cliff, Barn. **Chickadees**-Black-capped. **Titmouse**-Tufted. **Nuthatch**-Red-breasted, White-breasted. **Creeper**-Brown. **Wrens**-House, Winter, Sedge, Marsh. **Kinglets**-Golden-Crowned, Ruby-crowned **Gnatcatcher**-Blue-gray. **Thrushes**-Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Gray-cheeked, Swainson's, Hermit, Wood, American Robin, Varied Thrush. **Mimids**-Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher. **Starling**-European. **Pipit** American. **Waxwings**-Bohemian, Cedar. **Warblers**-Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape-May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine,

Kirkland's, Palm, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Cerulean, Black-and-white, American Redstart, Prothonotary, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Kentucky, Mourning, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, Wilson's, Canada. **Tanager**-Scarlet. **Towhee**-Eastern. **Sparrows**-American Tree, Chipping, Clay Colored, Field, Vesper, Lark, Savannah, Grasshopper, Henslow's, Fox, Song, Swamp, White Throated, Harris's, White Crowned, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting. **Cardinals**-Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel. **Blackbirds**-Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Rusty, Brewer's, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole. **Finches**-Purple Finch, House Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch. **Old World Sparrows**- House Sparrow. With a list of this size, there is more chance of errors and omissions. If you spot any potential corrections, please notify me. Many people contributed to the totals with impressive final additions from Ken Luepke and Rory Cameron. Thanks to all who helped compile this list for 2016. The blank chart will be at the meeting so results from Christmas Bird Counts can jump start the new year in addition to other recordings done since January first for 2017.

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With the new year comes time to renew our club dues. They are \$18 and the payment can be made at the meeting or send it to: Chequamegon Bird Club, c/o Cam Scott

N3566 Grover Drive

Withee, WI 54498

Please indicate if you prefer to get the Chirps by mail or E-mail.

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Some years we get all kinds of winter visitors from the north. Not so this this winter. Why? Birds gotta have fuel to survive frigid conditions. This can be in the form of lemmings whose numbers can vary greatly and most notably influence invasions of Snowy Owls. There are a few in the Dorchester area now, but not nearly the numbers of the previous two years. But what about all the seed eaters? Pine cone production within the state looked quite good last fall. However, cone production further north must have been exceptional in 2016. That's a good thing for Crossbills, Redpolls, Pine Siskins and Pine Grosbeaks because long distance travel for them has many perils. Yes, we love to have them as visitors with their uniqueness, colors, new species to record and observe. Personally, one trait I enjoy is their level of trust, possibly indifference, to people. I've fooled around different winters and discovered Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins and Redpolls would readily eat from my hand. That is a real handwarmer on a cold day.

Editor Chequamegon Chirps

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#### CLUB CONTACTS

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#### January and February outdoors

Full moons Jan 12 and Feb 10

Horned Larks move north.

Great Horned Owl courtship starts.

Mating season starts for coyotes,

red fox, wolves, beaver, squirrels.

Chickadees start spring songs.

Deer shed antlers.



Wild turkeys' snow tracks

Their arrows point us one way

They go the other