

# Chequamegon Chirps



January, 2018 Volume 37 Number 1

7 P.M. at the Medford Library

The end of one year and the beginning of another is a good time to reflect and plan. That will be the theme of this month's meeting. Recently completed Audubon Christmas Bird Counts will cover the reflection part and plans for 2018 will be the other portion. We would like to have member input for potential programs, speakers and/or themes.

Personally, I'd like suggestions for the Chirps. As you may have noticed, I tend to take a scattered approach to organization which is another way of saying haphazardly disorganized. This month Gayle Davis and Ron Shiffler made helpful contributions which made things easier for me. If there are topics you would like to see covered, or more in depth topics, there will be sheets passed around for your ideas and suggestions for the Chirps as well as monthly programs.

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Yearly dues are a part of the new year. They are \$18 and can be paid at the meeting or mailed to Cam Scott at N 3566 Grover Drive Withee, 54498.

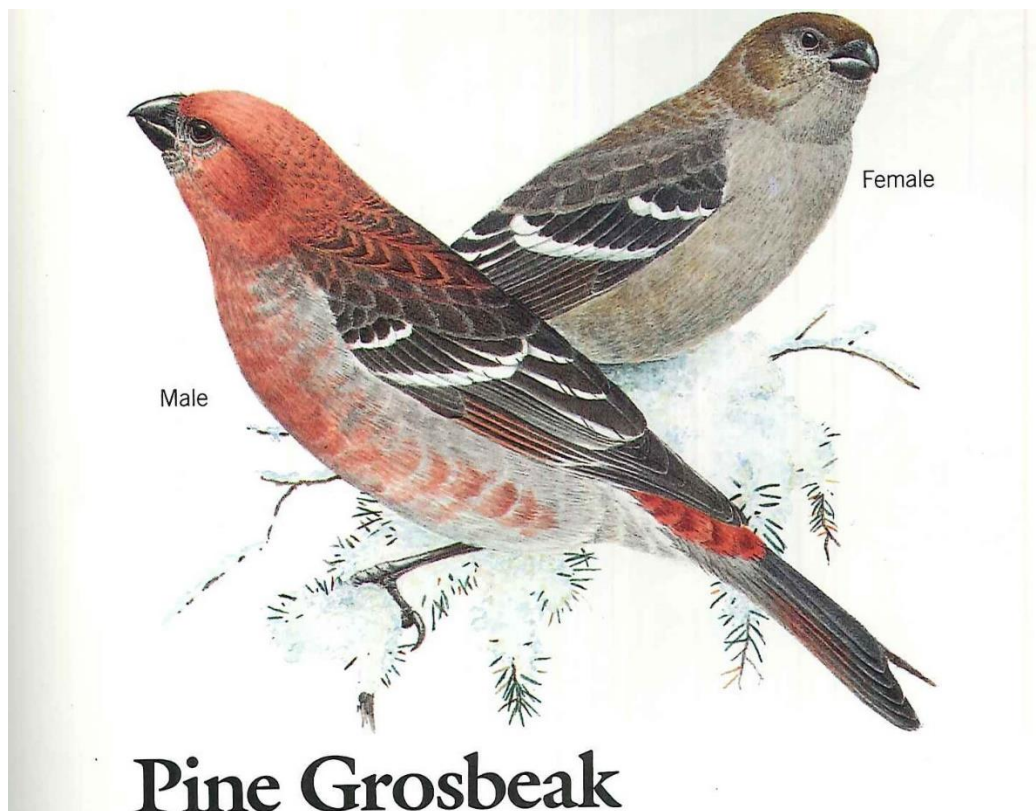
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The Medford, Willard and Gilman counts were on consecutive days starting December 30 when the temperature never got above zero. Ron and I had -24 when we started on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The following is an account by Gayle Davis of her day.

"Cathy Mauer had offered to accompany me on the Gilman CBC January 1, and foolishly followed through with that offer on a bitter cold day, arriving at my house shortly after dawn, as planned. We arrived at the southern edge of our designated 'east' route within the count circle and began birding. It was 18 degrees below zero, and I wished I was still in my warm bed. Evidently I could have lived vicariously through the birds as they were still in bed. Nothing was moving or calling. We picked up our first couple of species as they fed on a deer rib cage. Proceeding up to our next home with bird feeders, the usual suspects were nowhere to be found as we headed down the long driveway. Arriving at the feeder stations, we were excited to see a couple birds, and added the much-beloved Common Redpolls to our short list. Dark-eyed Juncos and Pine Siskins also made

an appearance at these feeders. Concluding our observations there, we headed up Winter Sports Road, and stopped at an area that looked hopeful for phishing in some birds. Three male and two female Pine Grosbeaks responded to the phish, landing on the road, then flying up into a bare tree. These birds were stunningly beautiful in the sunlight, and a thrill for us both to see. Little did we know hours would go before we saw any bird at all. Not even Black-capped Chickadees would phish out for us. It was simply too cold and all those dang birds were hunkered down conserving energy, much like I still wanted to be. Later on the route, a pair of Cedar Waxwings showed themselves, as well as two White-winged Crossbills. As we headed up Konsella Road, a pair of American Robins surprised us as they flew across the road in their sweeping, diving manner. In the late afternoon, we ended the day with a couple of Golden-crowned Kinglets, very near the area they were seen in another year. All in all, Cathy and I saw and/or heard 132 birds in eight hours. Dismal statistics, but at least we had a few gems to report. And so begins 2018.”

Sometimes slow, sometimes frigid, sometimes great, with numbers, species and weather. No two Audubon Christmas Bird Counts are the same. This was the 118<sup>th</sup> year of these seasonal excursions. The Chequamegon Bird Club is fortunate in that members regularly participate in them. I’ve been guilty of calling them Chequamegon Bird Counts instead of Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. In the future, I’ll try to remember to refer to them as Audubon Christmas Counts ably assisted by many Chequamegon Bird Club members.



## **Cat Wars; The devastating consequences of a cuddly killer.**

“This book, written by Pete Mara, a world-renowned conservation biologist, presents the case for keeping cats indoors. He tells the story of the threats free-ranging cats pose to biodiversity and public health throughout the world. It traces historical and cultural ties between humans and cats from early domestication to the current boom in pet ownership, along the way explaining the science of extinction, population modeling and feline diseases.”

Cat Wars paints a revealing picture of a complex global problem—and proposes solutions that foresee a time when wildlife and humans are no longer vulnerable to the impacts of free-ranging cats.”

### **Endangered Hawaiian Gallinules killed by feral cats on Kauai**

“The endangered Hawaiian Common Gallinule is the latest is the latest documented victim of feral cat predation on the Hawaiian island of Kauai. A pair of breeding adults were attacked and killed while sitting on their nest in a national refuge in late April.”

“With no adults left to attend the nest, the birds’ remaining three eggs and two hatchlings did not survive. The incubating parents of two more nests were killed by the same feral cat on April 22 and May 19, and six more eggs subsequently failed to hatch. The recent attacks are among the latest in a long line of killings of endangered Hawaiian birds by feral cats, a non-native species. Unpublished data collected by U.S. Fish and Wildlife employees have documented at least 252 suspected cat kills of Hawaiian Common Gallinules, Hawaiian Coots, Hawaiian Stilts, Hawaiian Ducks and Golden Plover in the Hanalei refuge between 2012 and 2014. Seabirds are similarly at risk, especially while on the nest. Feral cats were suspected in the deaths of 22 Laysan Albatross chicks during a three week period in 2015. Recently a feral cat was caught on camera killing and dragging an endangered Hawaiian Petrel out of its nest, an incident that is unfortunately recorded with regularity in remote seabird colonies on the island.”

According to coordinator Dr. Andre Raine of the Kauai Endangered Seabird Recovery Project, Feral cats are one of the worst of the introduced predators on the island of Kauai—they are widespread throughout the island, are highly adept predators, are capable of killing large numbers of bird in a very short period of time, and regularly kill breeding birds which makes their long-term impact on a breeding population even more devastating.”

These two articles came from the November issue of The Badger Birder. If you have cats, no matter how cute, keep them inside because predation is a part of their nature.

Editor Chequamegon Chirps

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CLUB CONTACTS

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Bird sightings: [connie1@charter.net](mailto:connie1@charter.net)

January and February events

Full moons January 2 and 31

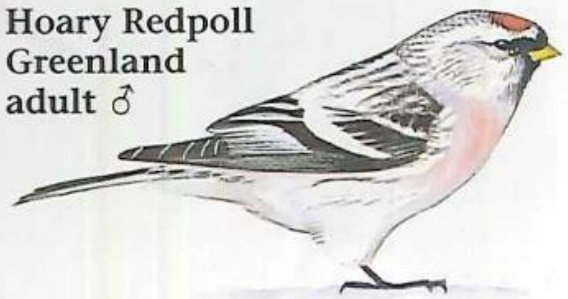
Horned Larks arriving

Great Horned Owl courtship

January thaw?

Deer shedding antlers

**Hoary Redpoll  
Greenland  
adult ♂**



**Common Redpoll  
Greenland  
adult ♂**

