

# ChequamegonChirps



**February 2026 Volume 45 Number 2**

Our February meeting will be Monday, 2-16-2026

7:00 p.m. at the Medford Library

Last month's meeting had limited attendance due to cold weather and problems with trying to connect virtually. Here are the steps if you prefer to participate from home. 1—Chat, 2—click on Chequamegon bird Club, 3—Meeting.

## **Data and observations from current and past Audubon Christmas Counts**

First of all, give credit to the people who planed the five counts including twenty-five different people spent time gathering field data. Ken Luepke, Joe Scott and Keith Merkel organized material and counters to make the events possible—no small task. Nadine Willet, in addition to being a counter and get together host, compiled numbers for the Spencer, Willard, and Gilman counts. These three counts have been held for 42, 46, and 45 consecutive years. Numbers accumulated over decades are impressive.

**Willard:** 46 years—1901 party hours to record 218,671 individuals of 84 species.

Overall average:115 individuals per hour. This year—70 individuals per party hour.

**Gilman:** 45 years—1930 party hours to record 133,625 individuals of 82 species.

Overall average: 69 individuals per hour. This year—27 individuals per party hour.

**Spencer:** 42 years—2176 party hours to record 228,914 individuals of 82 species.

Overall: 105 individuals per hour. This year—71 individuals per party hour.

**2025:** Totals this year for Medford and Clam Lake.

**Medford:** 32.25 hours to record 59 individuals per party hour of 33 species.

**Clam Lake:** 36.75 hours to record 7 individuals per hour of 24 species.

Rain, wind, fog, number of counters, road conditions can all make the counts more memorable if not productive. Large data collection over time helps to even out unusual numbers and circumstances.

2025 Audubon Christmas Bird Counts organized by local compilers  
Comparison Data

Summary 2025	Clam Lake 12-17-25	Gilman 01-01-26	Medford <i>12-27-26</i>	Spencer 12-16-25	Willard 12-28-25
Party Hours	36.75	41.75	35.25	63.75	43.75
Total Species	24	30	33	41	36
Total Individuals	256	1126	2070	4544	3056
Canada Goose					1
Mallard				3	
Common Merganser		1			
Ring-necked Pheasant		5		2	9
Ruffed Grouse	5	1	2		2
Wild Turkey	8	41	260	165	64
Northern Bobwhite				1	
Great Blue Heron				1	
Bald Eagle	1	14	2	8	21
Northern Harrier				1	
Cooper's Hawk		1			
Red-tailed Hawk		8	2	20	8
Rough-legged Hawk		5	4		2
American Kestrel			1	9	3
Rock Pigeon		110	214	302	628
Eurasian Collared Dove				7	
Mourning Dove		43	153	365	126
Great Horned Owl	1				1
Barred Owl	1	1		1	8
Short-eared Owl				CW	
Belted Kingfisher		1			1
Red-headed Woodpecker				2	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	15	27	17	26
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				1	
Downy Woodpecker	6	28	36	41	35
Hairy Woodpecker	8	19	18	17	6
Pileated Woodpecker	7	8	13	4	5
Woodpecker species		1			1
Northern Shrike	1		2	2	2
Blue Jay	30	69	84	125	191
American Crow	8	81	83	114	167
Common Raven	32	27	22	4	24
Black-capped Chickadee	78	189	345	159	195
Tufted Titmouse					2
Red-Breasted Nuthatch	8	6	8	16	141
White-Breasted Nuthatch	6	18	45	40	30
Brown Creeper	3			1	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1			1	
American Robin			1	10	1
European Starling		166	70	1208	742
Cedar Waxwing			15		
American Tree Sparrow		12	45	393	109
Dark-eyed Junco	1	10	43	267	149
Lapland Longspur				1	
Snow Bunting		60	60	536	
Northern Cardinal		6	36	37	62
Common Grackle	1				
Pine Grosbeak	17		4		

Summary 2025	Clam Lake 12-17-25	Gilman 01-01-26	12-27-26 Medford	Spencer 12-16-25	Willard 12-28-25
Purple Finch				12	12
House Finch			6	41	14
Common Redpoll	20	75	1	43	
Pine Siskin			2	25	
American Goldfinch	2	28	157	80	114
Evening Grosbeak	8		6		
House Sparrow		77	303	462	151
INDIVIDUAL TOTALS	256	1126	2070	4544	3056

## More data from Willard, Spencer and Gilman counts

Most common species over 5,000 for duration of counts

**Willard:** House Sparrow—50,496; European Starling—29,741; Black-capped Chickadee—19,990; Rock Pigeon—19,990; American Crow—18,198; American Goldfinch—11,629; Blue Jay—11,100; Dark-eyed Junco—7,010; Mourning Dove—6,288; Common Redpoll—5,902; America Tree Sparrow—5,777; Snow Bunting—5,356.

**Spencer:** House Sparrow—48,909; European Starling—42,760; Rock Pigeon—25903; Black-capped Chickadee—17,021; American Crow—14,092; Snow Bunting—11,998; Mourning Dove—9,484; Common Redpoll—6,253; Blue Jay—5,844; Tree Sparrow—4,980.

**Gilman;** Black-capped Chickadee—22,779; House Sparrow—17,117; European Starling—13,683; Rock Pigeon—11,207; American Crow—9,269; Common Redpoll; 9,088; Snow Bunting—7,021; American Goldfinch—6,450.

### General observations

These three circles lie in an approximate line from south to north, show greater prominence of Chickadees and Redpolls north with Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Cardinals more common to the south. Over the years turkeys were reintroduced and have thrived throughout the state while Greater Prairie Chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse are no longer in these three circles. Species such as Chickadees, House Sparrows, Starlings, and Ruffed Grouse have decreased in numbers. Evening Grossbeaks, Redpolls, once reliable winter visitors, are now rare. Change is a continual process documented by counts.

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Club contacts

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### **February and March events**

February 13 to 16 Backyard Bird Count

March 8 Daylight Savings Time begins

March 20 Spring Equinox

Maple sap collection for syrup

Winter and Spring battle one another

