

# Chequamegon Chirps



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The January meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at the Medford Library in the room on the left before you enter the library. Winter has finally started and it looks as if the 15<sup>th</sup> will very cold, but snow won't be a problem. With the sudden change in weather after such a mild December, it is kind of hard to be thinking about early spring birds starting to come back in less than ten weeks. Cathy Mauer will present information about marsh birds that nest in our area or pass through. Her source is birdscamadamarshwatchseries and she will have more details at the meeting. Another topic will be some of the highlights from the recently six completed Audubon Christmas counts that members participated in. The next Chirps will have the final numbers for all these counts.

## 2023 Wisconsin Birds Recorded By Chequamegon Members

These were 231 bird species reported within Wisconsin by club members. It is an impressive list. I probably have missed species or misread marks on the chart. If you spot any errors or admissions, please let me know and I'll print the corrections next month.

**GEESE**--Greater white-fronted, snow, Ross's, cackling, Canada. **SWANS**--trumpeter, tundra. **DUCKS**—Wood, Gadwall, American wigeon, American black, mallard, blue-winged teal, northern shoveler, northern pintail, green-winged teal, canvasback, redhead, ring-necked, greater scaup, lesser scaup, surf scoter, bufflehead, common goldeneye, hooded merganser, red-breasted merganser, ruddy. **PHEASANT**—ring-necked. **GROUSE**—ruffed. **TURKEY**—wild. **LOON**—common. **GREES**—pied-billed, horned, red-necked. **PELICAN**—American white. **COMORANT**—double-crested. **BITTERNS**—American, least. **HERONS**—great blue, great egret, snowy egret, cattle egret, green, black-crowned night. **VULTURE**—turkey. **HAWKS**—osprey, bald eagle, northern harrier, sharp shinned, Cooper's, northern goshawk, red-shouldered, broad-winged, red-tailed, rough-legged, American kestrel, merlin, Peregrine falcon. **RAILS**—Virginia, sora. **GALLINULES**—common moorhen, American coot. **CRANES**—sandhill, whooping. **PLOVERS**—black-bellied, semipalmated, killdeer. **STILT**—black-necked. **SANDPIPERS**—spotted, solitary, greater yellowlegs, lesser yellowlegs, upland, Hudsonian godwit,

sanderling, least, white-rumped, Baird's, pectoral, Dunlin, stilt, short-billed dowitcher, long-billed dowitcher, Wilson's snipe, American woodcock, Wilsons plarope, red-necked phalarope. **GULLS**—Bonaparte's, ring-billed, Herring. **TERNs**—black, Forster's. **DOVES**—rock pigeon, Eurasian collared, mourning. **CUCKOOS**—yellow-billed, black-billed. **OWLS**—great horned, snowy, barred. **GOATSUCKERS**—common nighthawk, whip-poor-will. **SWIFT**—chimney. **HUMMINGBIRDS**—ruby-throated, Rufous. **KINGFISHER**—belted. **WOODPECKER**—red-headed, red-bellied, yellow-bellied sapsucker, downy, hairy, northern flicker, pileated. **FLYCATCHERS**—eastern wood-pewee, yellow-bellied, alder, willow, least, eastern phoebe, great crested, eastern kingbird. **SHRIKE**—northern. **VIREOS**—yellow-throated, blue-headed, warbling, red-eyed. **CORVIDS**—blue jay, American crow, common raven. **LARK**—horned. **SWALLOWS**—purple martin, tree, northern rough-winged, bank, cliff, barn. **CHICKADEE**—black-capped. **TITMOUSE**—tufted. **NUTHATCHES**—red-breasted, white-breasted. **CREEPER**—brown. **WRENS**—house, sedge, marsh. **KINGLETS**—golden-crowned, ruby-crowned. **GNATCATCHER**—blue-gray. **THRUSHES**—eastern bluebird, veery, gray-cheeked, Swainson's, hermit, wood, American robin, varied. **MIMIDS**—gray catbird, northern mockingbird, brown thrasher. **STARLING**—European. **PIPIT**—American. **WAXWING**—cedar. **WARBLERS**—blue-winged, golden-winged, Tennessee, orange crowned, Nashville, northern Parula, yellow, chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, yellow-rumped, black-throated green, Blackburnian, pine, palm, bay-breasted, blackpoll, black-and-white. American redstart, Prothonotary, ovenbird, northern waterthrush, mourning, common yellowthroat, Wilson's, yellow-breasted chat. **TANAGER**—scarlet. **TOWHEES**—spotted, eastern. **SPARROWS**—American tree, chipping, clay-colored, Savannah, grasshopper, Henslow's, fox, song, Lincoln's, 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, eastern meadowlark, western meadowlark, yellow-headed, rusty, Brewer's, common grackle, brown-headed cowbird, Baltimore oriole. **FINCHES**—purple, house, red crossbill, common redpoll, pine siskin, American goldfinch, evening grosbeak. **OLD WORLD SPARROW**—house. **MURLET**—ancient. **FLAMINGO**—greater.

## WHY BIRD NUMBERS ARE DECLINING

“The number of wild birds across Europe has fallen by a quarter (550 million) since 1980. The decline is steepest among farmland birds, and new research suggests the cause to be the use of pesticides and fertilizers.”

“This has been a record-breaking year—and not in a good way, when it comes to the environment. Alongside global heating, yet another environmental disaster is unfolding: the rapid loss of wildlife.”

“Over the past four decades, the number of birds across Europe has dropped by a staggering 550 million. Thus far it was believed that the main reasons were habitat loss and pollution. But a research team led by Stanislas Rigal investigated data on 170 bird species across 20,000 sites in 28 countries—including records collected by citizen scientists—and concluded that the principal bird killer is agriculture intensification. **More precisely, it is an increased use of pesticides and fertilizers, which not only deprive birds of food, but also affect their health.**”

This material is from Joanna Bagniewska who is a science communicator and senior lecturer in environmental sciences at Brunel University.

The following information is from an article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel by Caitlin Looby. “Over the past 50 years, there have been unprecedented losses of plants, animals and insects around the world due to human-related causes, like climate change and habitat destruction. And a recent report provides a snapshot of how much this could be affecting Wisconsin.”

“Wisconsin is one of the states most at risk for biodiversity loss in the Great Lakes region, according to the report from Defenders of Wildlife. Compared to the rest of the country, Wisconsin ranked just outside the top ten states most at risk.”

“Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life found in an area, including plants, birds, animals and microbes. It includes all of the variety on Earth from genes, species and ecosystems.”

“The five main drivers of biodiversity loss include: climate change, invasive species introduction, habitat destruction, overexploitation and pollution, according to the report.”

editor

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### **January and February Events**

Full moons Jan 25 and Feb 24

Great Horned owls start laying eggs

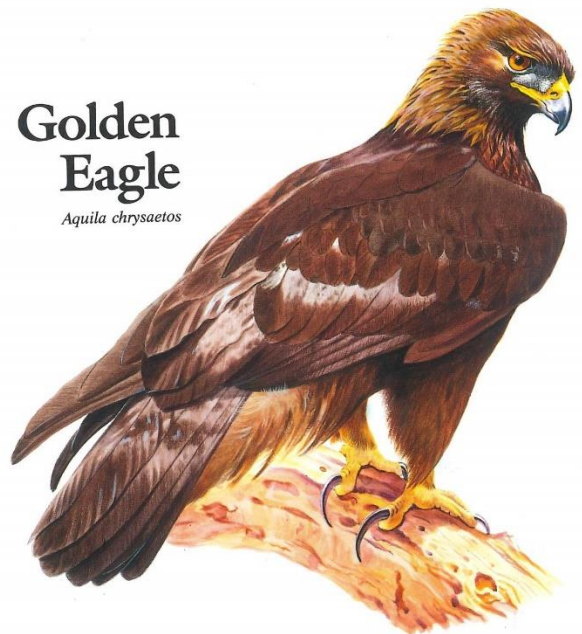
Horned larks to soon return

Time to enjoy the beauty and

uniqueness of the season

## **Golden Eagle**

*Aquila chrysaetos*



*He clasps the crag with crooked hands*

*Close to the sun in lonely lands*

*Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.*

By poet Lord Tennyson