

Chequamegon Chirps



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You can join our Monday, February 21 Zoom session at 7:00 P.M. by connecting to **314 090 6270**. We had about a dozen participants last month and expect at least that many on the 21st. While missing the direct contact with friends, it is handy to not have to dress for cold weather or drive bad roads. You can participate via voice only if that is your preference. Topics covered for this session will include a half-hour video about *A Misunderstood stork*. Also, new business will include discussion of World Migration Day, eagle nest locations and surveying the Livingston woods plus any other things that are relevant.

Dues-\$18- can still be sent to Cam Scott at N3566 Grover Dr. Withee, WI 54498

Great Backyard Bird Count February 18 to 21

“For four days each February the world comes together for the love of birds. The Cornell Lab and the National Audubon Society invite people to spend time in their favorite birding places watching and counting as many birds as they can in this important Citizen Science Project. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before birds undertake their annual spring migration. You can learn more how to participate and register for Cornell’s free Webinar at 1 p.m. CST, Wednesday, February 16, at birdcount.org/participate. The Webinar is designed for birders of all ages and experiences. Details include # Where you will watch birds. # Watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once or more a day for the four days, February 18, 19, 20 and 21. # Count all the birds you see or hear within your planned time and location. If you aren’t able to watch the Webinar, get touch with another club member on how you can report your data.

What Birds Did You Record in Wisconsin in 2021?

Club members record more than 200 species that are identified within the state each year. 2021, again, was goofed up for getting together and recording species each month. However, we can still have a listing of these records in the March Chirps. To do this you need to send me your listings by regular mail or email before March 10. My address is on page one or email jbragg41@hotmail.com Thank you in advance.

Eurasian Collared Dove

For the first time a Eurasian collared dove was recorded on the Spencer Christmas Count. It is too soon to tell, but this could be a good news or bad news event. Yes, it is exciting to record a new species, but the following information from the British Trust of Ornithology (BTO) puts a different light on this newcomer. “The Eurasian collared dove bred for the first time in Britain in 1955. Before 1930 it was confined to Turkey and the Balkans in Europe although it was found as far east as China. In the next 20 years it rapidly expanded its range northwest, quickly colonizing most of Europe, and now lives north of the Arctic Circle in Norway and as far south as Morocco and the Canary Islands.”

“Eurasian collared doves are an invasive, non-native species in North America, where they’re now widespread since two dozen escaped an enclosure in Bahamas in 1974. Their range expansion through the US was even faster than their spread across Europe.” The young have been known to travel over 300 miles from where they hatched. Their spread has tended to be in a north-west direction and they now are found on the West Coast and into Canada and Alaska. “One factor behind the collared dove’s success is its ability to breed year-round if the weather is mild. They may start a new nest before the previous young are independent, with the female using breaks from incubation to feed recently fledged offspring.” Its nesting preferences tend to urban and suburban areas where they will nest in mature trees and on roofs. One source said they don’t survive minus 20 degree temperatures, but that doesn’t explain appearing above the Arctic Circle. Will they adapt to our less cold winters as mourning doves have? If you are a hunter, there are no limits or seasons and they taste good (Like chicken?). Similar to mourning doves, which weigh 4 ounces, collared doves weigh in at 7 and pigeons are 9 ounces.

2021 Audubon Christmas Count Local Data

Ken Luepke and Connie Decker compiled the data for the Spencer, Willard and Gilman counts; Joe Scott for Medford and Keith Merkel for Clam Lake. They and other counters and feeder watchers recorded an overall total of 54 species of 14,640 individuals over 217.5 hours for the five counts. Weather was reasonable for all counts and snow wasn’t a handicap. No evening grosbeaks this year after over 100 last year and red poll numbers were up nearly 1,000. White winged crossbills-365-were found on all counts this year vs. only one bird last year. Sue Vick’s comment after her first count. “This was fun, sign me up for next year!”

2021 Audubon Christmas Bird Counts organized by local compilers

Summary 2021	Clam Lake 12-19	Gilman 01-01	Medford 12-18	Spencer 12-22	Willard 12-26
Party Hours	33.75	46.25	29.5	61.75	46.25
Total Species	20	33	35	39	42
Total Individuals	1126	2031	3841	3310	4232
Canada Goose	CW				
Mallard			110		
Ring-necked Pheasant				1	
Ruffed Grouse	17		4	1	8
Wild Turkey		160	110	189	79
Bald Eagle		12	6	21	42
Northern Harrier				2	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1		3	2
Cooper's Hawk	CW			2	
Northern Goshawk	1				1
Red-tailed Hawk		3	5	39	16
Rough-legged Hawk		9	12	17	18
American Kestrel				8	8
Merlin					1
Rock Pigeon		136	261	413	589
Mourning Dove	CW	146	191	226	151
Eurasian Collared-dove				1	
Great Horned Owl					3
Barred Owl	1	4	2	2	3
Long-eared Owl				1	
Belted Kingfisher		1		1	
Red-headed Woodpecker				3	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker		12	20	24	28
Downy Woodpecker	10	36	51	44	50
Hairy Woodpecker	13	19	30	22	15
Northern Flicker					1
Pileated Woodpecker	2	5	10	4	5
Woodpecker sp.		2			
Northern Shrike		6	2	2	6
Blue Jay	26	136	127	150	230
American Crow	17	66	201	137	263
Common Raven	28	36	13	6	16
Black-capped Chickadee	273	291	339	280	277
Tufted Titmouse			1		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	66	25	14	7	19
White-breasted Nuthatch	11	41	60	44	57
Brown Creeper	1				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	46	6	7		8
American Robin					12
European Starling		9	1232	342	1469
Cedar Waxwing					5
YR Warbler (Myrtle)	1				
American Tree Sparrow		6	20	26	57
Dark-eyed Junco	CW	26	76	78	115
Snow Bunting		14	140	255	
Northern Cardinal		3	18	52	37
Pine Grosbeak	12		1		
Purple Finch		1		3	2
House Finch		1	12	61	18
Red Crossbill	2	7	15		6
White-winged Crossbill	98	112	76	72	7
Common Redpoll	494	541	433	65	158
Pine Siskin			17		9
American Goldfinch	7	86	138	162	183
House Sparrow		72	87	544	251

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

Editor Chequamegon Bird Club

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Club contacts

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February and March Events

Full moons 2-16 (Snow) and 3-18 (worm)

Horned larks are back

Day length increasing 3 minutes per day

Daylight savings starts March 13

Spring Equinox March 20



Collared doves are easily recognised by the black half-collar on their necks. © John Harding/BTO