

# Chequamegon Chirps



**February 19, 2024 Volume 42 Number 12**

The February meeting will be at the Medford Library at 7:00 P.M. Feb 19. Jennifer Chudrimsky from Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop in Rib Mountain will present information on the huge loss of breeding birds and what we can do about it. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has developed Seven Simple Actions to help save the songbirds. Helping birds can be as simple as making changes to everyday habits. Jennifer will go over each of the seven steps, and make recommendations based on each step. You can also check out the website: [www.sossaveoursongbirds.org/](http://www.sossaveoursongbirds.org/)

Note for those who skype. It was learned at the first skype session last month that users can have very different experiences. With the fast connection at the library, everything went smoothly and quickly. That was not the case for many others with slow connections. Except for storms, it will be rare to have nine or more skype users for any meeting sessions. Many users slow it up. Secondly, those with fast connections took it for granted that skyping was smooth for all. If you would turn off the audio, and mute your microphone when not speaking, that should speed it up for everyone.

## **2023 Yearly Club Member Species Addition**

Last month's CHIRPS listed 231 species documented by club members within Wisconsin for 2023. Since then Gayle Davis has provided four more species: vesper and field sparrows, Cerulean warbler, and orchard oriole to bring the total to 235.

## **2023 Summary of Area Audubon Christmas Bird Counts**

Club members are heavily involved in six area Christmas Counts. The results that follow are from 278 hours of birding by individuals or groups over an area of 1,060 square miles. Fifty-nine species were recorded among 15,838 individuals. Impressive numbers but down 21% from last year's totals of 20,113 in the same areas. Weather can significantly alter these totals. This year's lack of snow cover had a definite impact. Large amounts of data over many years are the best measuring stick of trends. Citizen scientists are valuable contributors. Thank you.

## 2023 Audubon Christmas Bird Counts organized by local compilers

Summary 2023	ClamLake 12-22	Gilman 01-02	Medford 12-31	Owen 12-18	Spencer 12-14	Willard 12-28
Party Hours	39.5	44	44	43	55.5	51.75
Total Species	29	30	30	32	38	42
Total Individuals	896	1709	3251	3588	2996	3398
Canada Goose					1	5
Wood Duck					1	
Mallard			9		4	
Ring-necked Pheasant		2			2	1
Ruffed Grouse	25	9	9	2		5
Wild Turkey	6	86	167	74	2	183
Bald Eagle	CW	8	7	26	12	33
Northern Harrier		CW			2	
Sharp-shinned Hawk						2
Cooper's Hawk				1	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk		4	3	6	11	11
Rough-legged Hawk	1	4		2		5
Buteo Sp.					1	
Golden Eagle		1				
American Kestrel			4	15	12	7
Hawk Sp.					2	
Sandhill Crane					1	
Rock Pigeon		254	427	534	470	405
Mourning Dove	CW	40	101	30	166	129
Eurasian Collared-dove					1	
Great Horned Owl					1	
Barred Owl	5	8		1	3	2
Owl Sp.						1
Belted Kingfisher				CW	1	1
Red-headed Wdpecker					3	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	13	28	16	15	22
Downy Woodpecker	11	31	37	27	27	19
Hairy Woodpecker	16	15	17	18	17	11
Black-backed Wd pkr	1					
Pileated Woodpecker	8	3	7	8	3	7
Woodpecker sp.	4	1				
Northern Shrike	1	1	5	1	2	8
Canada Jay	1					
Blue Jay	10	125	99	97	75	283
American Crow	19	71	121	198	239	212
Common Raven	34	27	28	3	4	33
Horned Lark					2	
Black-capped Chickadee	133	248	436	249	219	190
Tufted Titmouse				1		2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	22	2	14	1	8	13
White-breasted Nuthatch	15	34	63	47	42	33
Brown Creeper	1	1	1			

Summary 2023	Clam Lake 12-22	Gilman 01-02	Medford 12-18	Owen 12-18	Spencer 12-14	Willard 12-28
Golden-cr. Kinglet	12	21	1			
American Robin	5					8
European Starling		281	1042	1802	1224	1146
Bohemian Waxwing	32					
Cedar Waxwing					10	8
American Tree Sparrow	3	102	17	3	33	62
White-throated Sparrow				CW		
Dark-eyed Junco	1	19	95	40	41	183
Snow Bunting	CW		32			1
Northern Cardinal		7	19	11	17	16
Common Grackle						1
Brown headed Cowbird						4
Purple Finch				8		2
House Finch			64	14	53	22
Red Crossbill	20					
White-winged Crossbill	8					
Common Redpoll	291	63		9		23
Pine Siskin	192		137	21		75
American Goldfinch	22	35	181	70	71	121
Evening Grosbeak						
House Sparrow		193	130	253	197	100

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

*Thank you to everyone who participated in the counts this year.*

*This summary compiled by Ken Luepke and Connie Decker*

Count compilers are: Keith Merkel---Clam Lake

Joe Scott---Medford    Gayle Davis---Owen

Ken Luepke---Spencer/Willard/Gilman

### **40 Years of Spencer Audubon Christmas Counts**

Four decades of Spencer counts that started in 1983 have recorded 80 species and 218,508 individuals. These numbers came from 2,059 party hours traveling almost 20,000 miles by vehicle and 389 miles on foot. This year had 38 species among 2996 individuals. The highest totals are 45 species in 2003 and 8,043 individuals in 1990. Memories of participants are countless.

editor

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Club contacts

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### **February and March Events**

Full moons February 24—Snow moon

March 2—Worm moon

Spring Equinox March 19

Tap maple trees

Earliest migrants returning

