The December meeting will be at the Medford Library on Monday AT 7 p.m. This is assuming weather will cooperate and we’ll have dry roads and mild temperature. Why not be optimistic? The last couple years, weather and road conditions caused January and/or February meetings to be cancelled. Hopefully, that won’t happen this winter.

While it seems as if Thanksgiving was just a few days ago, Christmas will soon be here. To celebrate the holiday, along with the winter solstice, let’s have a party. Officers will supply liquid refreshments and members are encouraged to bring treats—and guests, too. A silent auction (bird or wildlife articles are most welcome), but if you want to take a chance on unloading a white elephant…one person’s trash might be someone’s treasure. If your awesome article doesn’t sell, you’re expected to take it home—until next year. The funds raised with this exercise go toward funding club activities.

Speaking of money, now would be a good time to renew memberships for 2020. That makes things neater for Cam and easier to keep mailing lists up to date.

At last month’s meeting, Yelena came to ask if anyone in the club would be willing to help her in any way to feed the ducks that overwinter in Medford. She feels strongly they will die if she and/or others don’t feed them through the winter. That is debatable to say the least or not necessary since their going south is another option. If anyone feels so inclined, call 715-748-9334 to talk with her.

The Wausau Bird Club is sponsoring a bird poetry session at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 504 Grant Street at 6 P.M. on Monday, January 6. Guests are welcome and if you would like to contribute a reading, contact Karen at kjlpowers@aol.com

Another odds and ends and this is definitely in the odd department. Recently a Cardinal was banded in Texas that has the condition called bilateral gynandromorphies. This is when an animal is half male and half female. I have no idea of what the odds are of something like this occurring, but it must be off the charts. This individual has dramatic difference between the bright red male coloring on one side and the much more muted grey female coloration on the other. It is presumed to be anatomically half and half also. This was something on
Facebook so it has to be accurate, right? That 16 letter word is in a large dictionary, so I'm hoping this story is correct. Is it a sign of getting older or cynicism when one does not trust published material to the same degree as in years past?

**2019 Chequamegon bird list**


This is an impressive list, but as I was typing from our laminated Field Checklist, I think other birds have been identified that haven’t yet been recorded. Please check this list carefully to see if you can add to the totals. Thank you to for all your contributions.

**Top 10 Foods for Winter Bird Feeding**

This list was compiled by Bill Thompson, III from Bird Watchers Digest.

1—**Black-oil sunflower seed** is appropriate and desirable by all feeder visitors.

2—Peanuts should be dry-roasted and unsalted.

3—**Suet** This high energy food can be bought packaged or from butcher shops.

4—**Good mixed seed** can be mixed at home and includes sunflower seed, cracked corn, and white proso millet and peanut hearts. Some seed mixes don’t interest birds much.

5—**Thistle seed** needs the right kind of feeder such as a thistle sock. If this seed is old, birds may ignore it. Finches, pine siskins like to gather in flocks on these feeders.

6—**Safflower** attracts many birds, but shouldn’t be put on the ground as it becomes soggy.

7—**Cracked corn** is a favorite food for some species—including squirrels.

8—**Mealworms** are a treat and be grown at home. Several members do this. Ask for details. Except for Goldfinches most feeder birds like this treat.

9—**Fruit** Grapes or sliced citrus, apple, or banana draw many birds. (I don’t know how this would work in sub-zero temperatures) Raisins should be chopped up and soaked in warm water first.

10—**Homemade bird treats** can be cheaper than purchased feed and you can tailor them to what you want to attract and have the pleasure of producing it yourself.
Club Contacts

Website: Chequamegonbirdclub.org
Information: info@chequamegonbirdclub
Newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org
Bird sightings: connie1@charter.net

December and January Happenings
Full moons December 11 and January 10
Winter Equinox December 22
Christmas counts Dec.15, 22, 28, 29 Jan. 1
Good snow (so far) for tracking & other sports
Bear cubs will soon be born

Feeder Fodder
Winter is here and it is prime feeder time. There are some feed choices in an article this month. Maybe with this cover, feeder traffic will increase.
Cathy has Grouse visiting her feeders.