

## **2018 Johnson County Spring Count**

**Chris Caster**

The Spring Count was held on May 12, 2018. Heading into the weekend we were somewhat nervous that our count would be a soggy one. A front passed through Friday night bringing cool temps. The day began at 47 degrees and only warmed to 58. It was breezy at times, but we dodged the rain. And the birds were everywhere.

We managed a species count of 175, which tied the record count in 2003. Eleven waterfowl species was tremendous, as were eighteen shorebirds and 28 warblers. But it wasn't just the species count, it was the numbers found: 11 Veerys, 167 Swainson's Thrushes, 10 Bay-breasted Warblers, 30 Bobolinks. After a cold April it seemed like all the conditions were right, as we picked up early spring holdovers and a fallout of everything else itching to get north. We also had an early Alder Flycatcher.

As expected with a large count, we had many great birds. Perhaps the best bird was a Black-necked Stilt at Round Pond. A Common Gallinule was heard along Greencastle Ave. near the Half Moon Lake boat access. A Pine Siskin was coming to Linda Fisher's feeder. A Northern Mockingbird was at the corner of 500th and the Muscatine County line. Hudsonian Godwits and a Willet were seen from Amana Road. Ten American Avocets were at Terry Trueblood. Common Nighthawks can be a tough get, but two were at Goose Lake at dusk. A Black-crowned Night Heron was at Sycamore Bottoms. And a Red-breasted Merganser was at the water treatment ponds north of Kalona. Snow Geese, a Red-shouldered Hawk, Cape May Warblers, and Louisiana Waterthrushes were also great finds.

Despite the high count we had a number of tough misses: both bitterns, Northern Bobwhite, American Woodcock, Great Horned Owl, White-eyed Vireo, Loggerhead Shrike, Prothonotary Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow were missed this year. And one of these years we're going to find a Blue Grosbeak. Thanks to everyone for making it a great day.

Participants: Kyle, Lauren, and Marcia Belcher, Mark Brown, Chris Caster, Brandon Caswell, Chad and Colleen Davis, Jerry Denning, Drew Dillman, Karen Disbrow, Chris Edwards, Linda Fisher, Jim Fuller, James Huntington, Andy and KT Long, Terri Macey, Mark Madsen, Jason McCurdy, Ramona McGurk, Jason Paulios, Diana Pesek, Linda Quinn, Mark and Deb Rolfes, Daryl Ropp, Linda Rudolph, Jim Scheib, Sharon Somers, Donna Warner.

## SPECIES LIST

Snow Goose	3	Cooper's Hawk	2	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	8
Canada Goose	355	Red-shouldered Hawk	1	House Finch	10
Wood Duck	35	Broad-winged Hawk	1	Pine Siskin	1
Blue-winged Teal	86	Red-tailed Hawk	9	American Goldfinch	194
Northern Shoveler	71	Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Eastern Towhee	18
Gadwall	1	Barred Owl	4	Chipping Sparrow	78
Mallard	63	Belted Kingfisher	1	Field Sparrow	12
Green-winged Teal	2	Red-headed Woodpecker	30	Vesper Sparrow	2
Ring-necked Duck	2	Red-bellied Woodpecker	44	Lark Sparrow	10
Lesser Scaup	5	Downy Woodpecker	23	Savannah Sparrow	5
Hooded Merganser	10	Hairy Woodpecker	5	Grasshopper Sparrow	3
Red-breasted Merganser	1	Northern Flicker	11	Song Sparrow	49
Ruddy Duck	1	Pileated Woodpecker	12	Lincoln's Sparrow	11
Ring-necked Pheasant	16	American Kestrel	4	Swamp Sparrow	4
Wild Turkey	8	Peregrine Falcon	1	White-throated Sparrow	24
Pied-billed Grebe	6	Eastern Wood-Pewee	16	White-crowned Sparrow	32
Rock Pigeon	16	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Bobolink	30
Eurasian Collared-Dove	4	Alder Flycatcher	1	Eastern Meadowlark	28
Mourning Dove	66	Willow Flycatcher	2	Western Meadowlark	1
Common Nighthawk	2	Least Flycatcher	16	Orchard Oriole	8
Chimney Swift	5	Eastern Phoebe	14	Baltimore Oriole	80
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	12	Great Crested Flycatcher	31	Red-winged Blackbird	315
Sora	15	Eastern Kingbird	26	Brown-headed Cowbird	74
Common Gallinule	1	Bell's Vireo	6	Common Grackle	64
American Coot	14	Yellow-throated Vireo	33	Ovenbird	21
Sandhill Crane	4	Blue-headed Vireo	11	Louisiana Waterthrush	2
Black-necked Stilt	1	Philadelphia Vireo	4	Northern Waterthrush	15
American Avocet	10	Warbling Vireo	14	Golden-winged Warbler	28
Black-bellied Plover	4	Red-eyed Vireo	47	Blue-winged Warbler	6
Semipalmated Plover	4	Blue Jay	57	Black-and-white Warbler	26
Killdeer	19	American Crow	60	Tennessee Warbler	106
Hudsonian Godwit	2	Horned Lark	4	Orange-crowned Warbler	3
Stilt Sandpiper	1	Purple Martin	45	Nashville Warbler	31
Dunlin	5	Tree Swallow	293	Mourning Warbler	6
Least Sandpiper	154	N. Rough-winged Swallow	11	Kentucky Warbler	2
White-rumped Sandpiper	11	Bank Swallow	70	Common Yellowthroat	90
Pectoral Sandpiper	6	Cliff Swallow	308	American Redstart	140
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2	Barn Swallow	302	Cape May Warbler	6
Short-billed Dowitcher	8	Black-capped Chickadee	60	Cerulean Warbler	3
Spotted Sandpiper	23	Tufted Titmouse	35	Northern Parula	12
Solitary Sandpiper	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	32	Magnolia Warbler	41
Lesser Yellowlegs	41	House Wren	108	Bay-breasted Warbler	10
Willet	1	Sedge Wren	1	Blackburnian Warbler	20
Greater Yellowlegs	1	Marsh Wren	2	Yellow Warbler	45
Franklin's Gull	22	Carolina Wren	5	Chestnut-sided Warbler	81
Ring-billed Gull	33	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	23	Blackpoll Warbler	17
Herring Gull	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6	Palm Warbler	26
Caspian Tern	20	Eastern Bluebird	14	Yellow-rumped Warbler	52
Black Tern	15	Veery	11	Yellow-throated Warbler	2
Forster's Tern	14	Gray-cheeked Thrush	8	Black-throated Green Warbler	18
Double-crested Cormorant	17	Swainson's Thrush	167	Canada Warbler	5
American White Pelican	300	Wood Thrush	6	Wilson's Warbler	17
Great Blue Heron	10	American Robin	302	Scarlet Tanager	38
Great Egret	1	Gray Catbird	151	Northern Cardinal	136
Green Heron	6	Brown Thrasher	18	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	63
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	Northern Mockingbird	1	Indigo Bunting	54
Turkey Vulture	131	European Starling	57	Dickcissel	8
Osprey	1	Cedar Waxwing	93		
Bald Eagle	19	House Sparrow	81		