

## **2019 Johnson County Spring Count**

### **Chris Caster**

The Spring Count was held on May 11, 2019. It was a cool, wet morning and my soles were squeaking loudly as I entered our noon meeting. Despite the conditions we had a good crew and many were able to bird more in the afternoon when conditions improved. Thanks to all those who got into the field on what turned out to be a pretty good day.

We managed a species total of 158, which is about the count average. We had just seven species of waterfowl. Shorebird habitat was limited and we were fortunate to find twelve species. Warblers were better with twenty-six species, and widespread in generally good numbers. Over 200 Yellow-rumped Warblers and over 100 Nashville Warblers and American Redstarts were found. Four groups found Blue-winged Warblers, five found Golden-winged, and six found Cape Mays.

Our best bird was also a warbler – Linda Rudolph found a Pine Warbler on the Oakdale Research Campus. Linda also found a Philadelphia Vireo. A Louisiana Waterthrush was found by Ken Lowder at Big Grove Preserve. Daniel Miller of rural SW Johnson County called to tell me of a young male Summer Tanager that his brother had trapped in his shed. I'm told they let it go after verifying the identification. Mark Brown had a Sanderling and Sedge Wren at Cedar River Crossing near Sutliff. Clay-colored Sparrows and Sandhill Cranes were at Sycamore Bottoms. Jim Forde observed a Peregrine Falcon at Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area. Pine Siskins were coming to Linda Fisher's feeders in Coralville. A Northern Mockingbird, Common Loons, and three tern species were at Terry Trueblood. Common Nighthawks were at Goose Lake in North Liberty. And I was delighted to find a very vocal Virginia Rail at the marsh on 580th Street SE.

As on last year's record count, we again missed finding both bitterns, Northern Bobwhite, American Woodcock, Great Horned Owl, White-eyed Vireo, Loggerhead Shrike, Prothonotary Warbler, and Henslow's Sparrow. Birds seen in days prior to the count but missed included Black-crowned Night-Heron, Redhead, and Lesser Scaup. Found last year, but missed this year were Eastern Screech-Owl, Bell's Vireo, Marsh Wren, Cedar Waxwing, and Cerulean Warbler.

Participants: Kyle and Lauren Belcher, Miriam, Ruth, Sarah, and Hannah Borntreger, Mark Brown, Chris Caster, Karen Disbrow, Chris Edwards, Linda Fisher, Jim Forde, Jim Fuller, Evan and Elaine Gingerich, James Huntington, KT Long, Ken Lowder, Mark Madsen, Jamie McCoy, Jason McCurdy, Ramona McGurk, Abner Miller, Cheryl Miller, Daniel Miller, Jason Paulios, Diana Pesek, Linda Quinn, Mark and Deb Rolfes, Daryl Ropp, Linda Rudolph, Jim Scheib, Jane Slaymaker, Donna Warner.

**SPECIES LIST**

Canada Goose	202	Pileated Woodpecker	4	White-throated Sparrow	117
Wood Duck	41	American Kestrel	2	White-crowned Sparrow	24
Blue-winged Teal	45	Peregrine Falcon	1	Bobolink	23
Northern Shoveler	5	Eastern Kingbird	25	Eastern Meadowlark	48
Gadwall	14	Great Crested Flycatcher	19	Western Meadowlark	4
Mallard	70	Eastern Wood-Pewee	4	Orchard Oriole	14
Hooded Merganser	4	Willow Flycatcher	2	Baltimore Oriole	70
Ring-necked Pheasant	30	Least Flycatcher	16	Red-winged Blackbird	608
Wild Turkey	7	Eastern Phoebe	15	Brown-headed Cowbird	100
Rock Pigeon	16	Yellow-throated Vireo	17	Common Grackle	77
Eurasian Collared-Dove	5	Blue-headed Vireo	8	Ovenbird	18
Mourning Dove	74	Philadelphia Vireo	1	Louisiana Waterthrush	1
Common Loon	2	Warbling Vireo	26	Northern Waterthrush	26
Pied-billed Grebe	4	Red-eyed Vireo	9	Golden-winged Warbler	19
Common Nighthawk	2	Blue Jay	59	Blue-winged Warbler	24
Chimney Swift	8	American Crow	27	Black-and-white Warbler	30
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	8	Horned Lark	3	Tennessee Warbler	26
Virginia Rail	1	Purple Martin	51	Orange-crowned Warbler	8
Sora	8	Tree Swallow	222	Nashville Warbler	133
American Coot	14	N. Rough-winged Sw.	27	Mourning Warbler	1
Sandhill Crane	4	Bank Swallow	116	Common Yellowthroat	112
Semipalmated Plover	25	Cliff Swallow	232	American Redstart	129
Killdeer	38	Barn Swallow	205	Cape May Warbler	10
Sanderling	1	Black-capped Chickadee	71	Northern Parula	31
Dunlin	3	Tufted Titmouse	19	Magnolia Warbler	20
Least Sandpiper	55	Red-breasted Nuthatch	16	Blackburnian Warbler	9
White-rumped Sandpiper	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	34	Yellow Warbler	54
Pectoral Sandpiper	7	House Wren	131	Chestnut-sided Warbler	39
Semipalmated Sandpiper	6	Sedge Wren	1	Blackpoll Warbler	11
Dowitcher sp.	1	Carolina Wren	2	Palm Warbler	49
Spotted Sandpiper	13	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	31	Pine Warbler	1
Solitary Sandpiper	5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	21	Yellow-rumped Warbler	228
Lesser Yellowlegs	8	Eastern Bluebird	25	Yellow-throated Warbler	2
Bonaparte's Gull	1	Veery	5	Black-thr. Green Warbler	23
Franklin's Gull	1	Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	Canada Warbler	1
Ring-billed Gull	3	Swainson's Thrush	29	Wilson's Warbler	6
Caspian Tern	2	Wood Thrush	10	Summer Tanager	1
Black Tern	7	American Robin	201	Scarlet Tanager	13
Forster's Tern	8	Gray Catbird	179	Northern Cardinal	181
Double-crested Cormorant	18	Brown Thrasher	25	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	93
American White Pelican	34	Northern Mockingbird	1	Indigo Bunting	38
Great Blue Heron	9	European Starling	108	Dickcissel	4
Great Egret	7	House Sparrow	135		
Green Heron	2	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	36		
Turkey Vulture	82	House Finch	17		
Osprey	2	Pine Siskin	6		
Northern Harrier	1	American Goldfinch	161		
Cooper's Hawk	4	Eastern Towhee	7		
Bald Eagle	7	Chipping Sparrow	79		
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Clay-colored Sparrow	2		
Red-tailed Hawk	9	Field Sparrow	13		
Barred Owl	4	Vesper Sparrow	1		
Belted Kingfisher	3	Lark Sparrow	10		
Red-headed Woodpecker	31	Savannah Sparrow	9		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	44	Grasshopper Sparrow	7		
Downy Woodpecker	40	Song Sparrow	96		
Hairy Woodpecker	6	Lincoln's Sparrow	8		
Northern Flicker	14	Swamp Sparrow	1		