

2021 Johnson County Spring Migration Count

Chris Caster

The Spring Migration Count was held on Saturday, May 8. Once again due to the ongoing COVID crisis, we did not meet for lunch. But as many of us were vaccinated, we did choose to bird in small groups—another marker in our return to normalcy.

Over the previous days winds had been from the north. On count day we awoke to temperatures hovering just above freezing, almost a repeat of 2020. And like last year it warmed up nicely, to about 55 degrees. It was breezy and a great day to be out until it began to drizzle around 6:30 in the evening. We managed a species total of 166, ten more than last year. We had 11 species of waterfowl, the same as last year. Shorebirds made the most difference as we had 19 this year, seven more than last year. We also had 23 warblers, which was two more than last year. So, there you go.

Our best birds may have been the Red-necked Phalaropes seen from Amana Road at Hawkeye Wildlife Area. Other exciting shorebirds were a Sanderling, a Lesser Golden Plover, Long-billed Dowitchers, and many Dunlins at Hawkeye. American Avocets were seen at Twinview Heights. A Wilson's Snipe was winnowing at Williams Prairie. A Common Loon was on the north arm of Lake Macbride. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was south of the Coralville Dam. The best warbler may have been the Louisiana Waterthrush at Ken Lowder's woodland pond. Yellow-throated Warblers, a Prothonotary Warbler, and a White-eyed Vireo were at Macbride Nature Recreation Area. A Cape May Warbler was at Mormon Handcart Park, which seemed to be a hotspot as Grasshopper and Clay-colored Sparrows were also found there. Henslow's Sparrow and Sedge Wren were at Kent Park. Common Nighthawks were at Goose Lake. Summer Tanagers were at both Squire Point and City Park. Blue Grosbeaks were at Terry Trueblood and along James Avenue. A Purple Finch and Pine Siskins were at Hickory Hill Park. Lastly, Daryl Ropp had a lingering Dark-eyed Junco at his feeder.

Possibly the biggest miss was Osprey. Other misses included both bitterns, Great Egret, Upland Sandpiper, Black Tern, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell's Vireo, Northern Mockingbird, and Cerulean, Kentucky, and Wilson's Warblers.

Participants: Kyle and Lauren Belcher, Phyllis Black, Jayden Bowen, Mark Brown, Chris Caster, Jerry Denning, Chris Edwards, Julie and Sara Lindower, Ken Lowder, Terri Macey, Mark Madsen, Arthur Mercado, Jason Paulios, Diana Pesek, Linda Quinn, Deb and Mark Rolfes, Daryl Ropp, Linda Rudolph, Janet Seiz, Chris Troyer, and Eliza Willis. If you participated but were not included above, I apologize, but I did not receive reports from every group leader.

SPECIES LIST

Canada Goose	320	Wild Turkey	3	Semipalmated Plover	12
Wood Duck	46	Pied-billed Grebe	5	Killdeer	44
Blue-winged Teal	216	Rock Pigeon	27	Sanderling	1
Northern Shoveler	61	Eurasian Collared-Dove	5	Dunlin	81
Gadwall	14	Mourning Dove	77	Least Sandpiper	83
Mallard	103	Common Nighthawk	4	White-rumped Sandpiper	2
Green-winged Teal	13	Chimney Swift	8	Pectoral Sandpiper	333
Ring-necked Duck	2	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	6	Semipalmated Sandpiper	6
Lesser Scaup	2	Sora	3	Long-billed Dowitcher	3
Hooded Merganser	5	American Coot	19	American Woodcock	3
Ruddy Duck	3	Sandhill Crane	3	Wilson's Snipe	1
Northern Bobwhite	1	American Avocet	4	Spotted Sandpiper	15
Ring-necked Pheasant	11	American Golden Plover	1	Solitary Sandpiper	11

Lesser Yellowlegs	185	Bank Swallow	23	Lincoln's Sparrow	6
Greater Yellowlegs	12	Tree Swallow	189	Swamp Sparrow	2
Wilson's Phalarope	3	N. Rough-winged Swallow	9	Eastern Towhee	10
Red-necked Phalarope	4	Purple Martin	23	Bobolink	13
Franklin's Gull	3	Barn Swallow	153	Eastern Meadowlark	20
Ring-billed Gull	39	Cliff Swallow	169	Western Meadowlark	1
Caspian Tern	4	Black-capped Chickadee	49	Orchard Oriole	18
Forster's Tern	2	Tufted Titmouse	38	Baltimore Oriole	90
Common Loon	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	Red-winged Blackbird	800
Double-crested Cormorant	10	White-breasted Nuthatch	39	Brown-headed Cowbird	251
American White Pelican	1	House Wren	116	Common Grackle	101
Great Blue Heron	7	Sedge Wren	1	Ovenbird	21
Green Heron	2	Marsh Wren	2	Louisiana Waterthrush	1
Turkey Vulture	64	Carolina Wren	2	Northern Waterthrush	16
Cooper's Hawk	6	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	24	Golden-winged Warbler	13
Bald Eagle	16	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7	Blue-winged Warbler	7
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Eastern Bluebird	11	Black-and-white Warbler	15
Red-tailed Hawk	9	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	Prothonotary Warbler	1
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Swainson's Thrush	15	Tennessee Warbler	24
Great Horned Owl	1	Wood Thrush	9	Orange-crowned Warbler	4
Barred Owl	6	American Robin	243	Nashville Warbler	55
Belted Kingfisher	3	Gray Catbird	136	Common Yellowthroat	69
Red-headed Woodpecker	16	Brown Thrasher	5	American Redstart	79
Red-bellied Woodpecker	45	European Starling	169	Cape May Warbler	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Cedar Waxwing	14	Northern Parula	21
Downy Woodpecker	59	House Sparrow	179	Magnolia Warbler	3
Hairy Woodpecker	18	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	53	Blackburnian Warbler	1
Northern Flicker	15	House Finch	31	Yellow Warbler	28
Pileated Woodpecker	2	Purple Finch	1	Chestnut-sided Warbler	18
American Kestrel	4	Pine Siskin	8	Blackpoll Warbler	3
Peregrine Falcon	2	American Goldfinch	97	Palm Warbler	43
Great Crested Flycatcher	36	Grasshopper Sparrow	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	166
Eastern Kingbird	27	Lark Sparrow	10	Yellow-throated Warbler	2
Least Flycatcher	13	Chipping Sparrow	34	Black-throated Green Warbler	15
Eastern Phoebe	5	Clay-colored Sparrow	5	Summer Tanager	2
White-eyed Vireo	1	Field Sparrow	15	Scarlet Tanager	11
Yellow-throated Vireo	17	Dark-eyed Junco	1	Northern Cardinal	202
Blue-headed Vireo	8	White-crowned Sparrow	23	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	72
Warbling Vireo	20	White-throated Sparrow	78	Blue Grosbeak	2
Red-eyed Vireo	16	Vesper Sparrow	1	Indigo Bunting	34
Blue Jay	181	Henslow's Sparrow	2	Dickcissel	13
American Crow	78	Savannah Sparrow	1		
Horned Lark	3	Song Sparrow	52		