

2023 Johnson County Spring Migration Count

Chris Caster

This year's Spring Migration Count was held on Saturday, May 13. It was a fantastic day to be out birding. Morning temperatures were in the low 60s, but it reached 77 in mid-afternoon. Light winds blew occasionally throughout the day, but there was no rain.

Winds had been from the south earlier in the week and given the paucity of migrants, it appeared that conditions were favorable for them to move north out of our area. Despite this, we managed a species total of 160, which is a bit over our average. We had 10 species of waterfowl, which was good given the late count date. Shorebirds were in short supply with only 12 species and low numbers. Twenty-four warbler species seemed surprisingly good.

As always, there were some great birds. Most notable were five Summer Tanagers. These were reported from Hanging Rock Woods, Kent Park, Hickory Hill Park, and Ryerson Woods. A Yellow-breasted Chat was vocal and easy to see at the intersection of Swan Lake Road and Babcock Access at Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area. A pair of Loggerhead Shrikes were tending nestlings at the pasture at 500th Road SE and Johnson-Muscataine Avenue. A Northern Mockingbird was at Sycamore Bottoms. A White-eyed Vireo was found behind Kate Wickham Elementary in Coralville. Many Bell's Vireos were found.

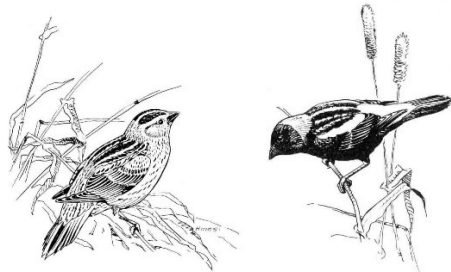
Cape May Warblers were found at Cedar River Crossing and at St. Joseph's Cemetery. Prothonotary Warblers can be difficult to find, but one was relocated at the end of Croy Road NW near the Highway 965 Iowa River crossing. Mourning Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher were along the Sugar Bottom Bike Trail. A Mute Swan and a Canvasback were on Swan Lake. Both Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos were at Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area. An Eastern Screech-Owl was roosting at Daryl Ropp's home north of Kalona.

There weren't many notable misses. Once again, we were unable to find a Great Horned Owl. And although Cerulean Warblers were known to be back, none were reported on the count. We couldn't manage to find a Pectoral Sandpiper or Sedge Wren either.

We enjoyed tremendous participation this year. Thanks to everyone for making it a great day.

Participants (40): Elizabeth Aubrey, Kyle and Lauren Belcher, Becky Benson, Nick Benson, Tom Bootsmiller, Paul, Ruth and Sarah Borntrager, Jayden Bowen, Mark Brown, Chris Caster, Brandon Caswell, Gerald Denning, Karen Disbrow, Chris Edwards, Linda Fisher, Peter Hansen, James Huntington, Ken Lowder, Terri Macey, Mark Madsen, Jamie McCoy, Jason McCurdy, Andrew Meiborg, Hank Miguel, Abner Miller, Mary Noble, Jason Paulios, Diana Pesek, Linda Quinn, Deb and Mark Rolfes, Daryl and Emily Ropp, Linda Rudolph, Jane Shuttleworth, Jean and Jim Wiese, Eliza Willis.

SEE SPECIES LIST ON NEXT PAGE



SPECIES LIST

Canada Goose	259	Great Crested Flycatcher	91	Savannah Sparrow	17
Mute Swan	1	Eastern Kingbird	95	Song Sparrow	78
Wood Duck	118	Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	6
Blue-winged Teal	38	Eastern Wood-Pewee	37	Swamp Sparrow	3
Gadwall	2	Acadian Flycatcher	5	Eastern Towhee	41
Mallard	66	Willow Flycatcher	8	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
Green-winged Teal	1	Least Flycatcher	10	Bobolink	20
Canvasback	1	Eastern Phoebe	15	Eastern Meadowlark	36
Lesser Scaup	4	White-eyed Vireo	1	Western Meadowlark	2
Hooded Merganser	3	Bell's Vireo	22	Orchard Oriole	26
Northern Bobwhite	3	Yellow-throated Vireo	50	Baltimore Oriole	174
Wild Turkey	12	Blue-headed Vireo	2	Red-winged Blackbird	1727
Ring-necked Pheasant	34	Philadelphia Vireo	2	Brown-headed Cowbird	129
Pied-billed Grebe	4	Warbling Vireo	74	Common Grackle	11
Rock Pigeon	19	Red-eyed Vireo	50	Ovenbird	5
Eurasian Collared-Dove	3	Loggerhead Shrike	4	Northern Waterthrush	7
Mourning Dove	70	Blue Jay	87	Golden-winged Warbler	5
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5	American Crow	72	Blue-winged Warbler	1
Black-billed Cuckoo	4	Black-capped Chickadee	78	Black-and-white Warbler	15
Common Nighthawk	3	Tufted Titmouse	39	Prothonotary Warbler	1
Chimney Swift	25	Horned Lark	16	Tennessee Warbler	161
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	12	Bank Swallow	32	Nashville Warbler	13
Sora	3	Tree Swallow	68	Mourning Warbler	1
American Coot	1	N. Rough-winged Swallow	6	Common Yellowthroat	58
Sandhill Crane	7	Purple Martin	73	American Redstart	188
Killdeer	45	Barn Swallow	104	Cape May Warbler	2
Semipalmated Plover	9	Cliff Swallow	133	Northern Parula	18
Dunlin	15	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	Magnolia Warbler	13
Least Sandpiper	44	Cedar Waxwing	51	Bay-breasted Warbler	4
White-rumped Sandpiper	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Blackburnian Warbler	4
Semipalmated Sandpiper	6	White-breasted Nuthatch	45	Yellow Warbler	73
Short-billed Dowitcher	16	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	38	Chestnut-sided Warbler	20
American Woodcock	6	House Wren	188	Blackpoll Warbler	20
Spotted Sandpiper	20	Marsh Wren	1	Palm Warbler	21
Solitary Sandpiper	3	Carolina Wren	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	9
Lesser Yellowlegs	5	Gray Catbird	190	Yellow-throated Warbler	1
Greater Yellowlegs	1	Brown Thrasher	17	Black-throated Green Warbler	4
Ring-billed Gull	18	Northern Mockingbird	1	Wilson's Warbler	11
Double-crested Cormorant	38	European Starling	184	Summer Tanager	5
American White Pelican	470	Eastern Bluebird	21	Scarlet Tanager	32
Great Blue Heron	12	Veery	3	Northern Cardinal	218
Great Egret	2	Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	93
Green Heron	1	Swainson's Thrush	25	Indigo Bunting	165
Turkey Vulture	80	Wood Thrush	14	Dickcissel	46
Osprey	3	American Robin	244		
Cooper's Hawk	5	House Sparrow	163		
Bald Eagle	12	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	44		
Red-tailed Hawk	9	House Finch	16		
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	American Goldfinch	185		
Barred Owl	6	Grasshopper Sparrow	8		
Belted Kingfisher	4	Lark Sparrow	13		
Red-headed Woodpecker	73	Chipping Sparrow	45		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	62	Clay-colored Sparrow	2		
Downy Woodpecker	41	Field Sparrow	30		
Hairy Woodpecker	13	White-crowned Sparrow	34		
Northern Flicker	12	White-throated Sparrow	7		
Pileated Woodpecker	8	Vesper Sparrow	1		
American Kestrel	5	Henslow's Sparrow	9		