

2024 Johnson County Spring Count

by Chris Caster and Chris Edwards

The Spring Count was held on the 11th of May. It was a nice, but breezy day to be out birding. The morning began with a cool 46 degrees. But the high reached 75 mid-afternoon. Winds gusted for most of the day from 20 to 30 mph, but there was no rain. We managed a species total of 160, which was the same number we arrived last year and is a bit over our average. We had 10 species of waterfowl, also the same as last year. But this year shorebirds were more plentiful and we found 16 species. And twenty-five warbler species was a decent number.

As always there were some great birds. A Long-billed Dowitcher was with a variety of shorebirds at Terry Trueblood, as was a Clay-colored Sparrow. Six Black-necked Stilts were in the Hawkeye Wildlife Area. An American Pipit was at the Cedar River Crossing. A Louisiana Waterthrush and an Acadian Flycatcher were at Squire Point. Three different groups combined to report Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo and Canada Warbler from Hickory Hill Park. An astounding six White-eyed Vireos were found. A Marsh Wren was at the Saddlebrook Wetland Trail. There were three Veery found. A Pine Siskin was at the Hollis residence. A Bay-breasted Warbler and two Cape May Warblers were found.

There weren't any notable misses, but a number of birds we might have found. We did not have a Black Tern, Bittern or Great Egret. Neither Harrier nor Peregrine was seen. Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Mockingbird, and Sedge Wren did not make the list. We struck out with Prothonotary, Kentucky, and Cerulean Warblers. And no Summer Tanagers or Blue Grosbeaks were to be found.

Thanks to Chris Edwards for updating the count sheet and leading the noontime proceedings. Thanks to Deb Rolfes for creating a Spring Count Checklist Board.

Participants (28) included: Elizabeth Aubrey, Kyle Belcher, Becky Benson, Tom Bootsmiller, Jayden Bowen, Mark Brown, Brandon Caswell, Gerald Denning, Karen Disbrow, Mark and Sandy Eads, Chris Edwards, Julie Englander, Rick Hollis, Mark Madsen, Jamie McCoy, Ramona McGurk, Abner Miller, Mary Noble, Jason Paulios, Diana Pesek, Linda Quinn, Deb and Mark Rolfes, Daryl Ropp, Linda Rudolph, Jean and Jim Wiese

Species Recorded

Canada Goose	277	Belted Kingfisher	3	Pine Siskin	1
Wood Duck	44	Red-headed Woodpecker	43	American Goldfinch	169
Blue-winged Teal	58	Red-bellied Woodpecker	37	Grasshopper Sparrow	5
Northern Shoveler	38	Downy Woodpecker	36	Lark Sparrow	6
Gadwall	3	Hairy Woodpecker	11	Chipping Sparrow	46
Mallard	93	Northern Flicker	6	Clay-colored Sparrow	1
Northern Pintail	1	Pileated Woodpecker	5	Field Sparrow	20
Ring-necked Duck	1	American Kestrel	2	White-crowned Sparrow	12

Lesser Scaup	12	Great Crested Flycatcher	46	White-throated Sparrow	8
Hooded Merganser	1	Eastern Kingbird	67	Vesper Sparrow	4
Northern Bobwhite	4	Eastern Wood-Pewee	15	Savannah Sparrow	17
Wild Turkey	11	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Song Sparrow	48
Ring-necked Pheasant	19	Acadian Flycatcher	2	Swamp Sparrow	4
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Willow Flycatcher	3	Eastern Towhee	18
Rock Pigeon	13	Least Flycatcher	22	Bobolink	11
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1	Eastern Phoebe	14	Eastern Meadowlark	26
Mourning Dove	60	White-eyed Vireo	6	Western Meadowlark	11
Common Nighthawk	6	Bell's Vireo	15	Orchard Oriole	29
Chimney Swift	2	Yellow-throated Vireo	34	Baltimore Oriole	149
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	11	Blue-headed Vireo	9	Red-winged Blackbird	433
Sora	2	Philadelphia Vireo	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	137
American Coot	6	Warbling Vireo	67	Common Grackle	77
Sandhill Crane	14	Red-eyed Vireo	39	Ovenbird	12
Black-necked Stilt	6	Blue Jay	83	Louisiana Waterthrush	1
Killdeer	44	American Crow	43	Northern Waterthrush	12
Semipalmated Plover	8	Black-capped Chickadee	79	Golden-winged Warbler	19
Dunlin	22	Tufted Titmouse	33	Blue-winged Warbler	3
Least Sandpiper	89	Horned Lark	4	Black and white Warbler	11
White-rumped Sandpiper	13	Bank Swallow	4	Tennessee Warbler	99
Pectoral Sandpiper	13	Tree Swallow	65	Orange-crowned Warbler	1
Semipalmated Sandpiper	6	N. Rough-winged Swallow	6	Nashville Warbler	22
Short-billed Dowitcher	7	Purple Martin	36	Common Yellowthroat	119
Long-billed Dowitcher	1	Barn Swallow	39	American Redstart	161
American Woodcock	3	Cliff Swallow	120	Cape May Warbler	2
Spotted Sandpiper	21	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Northern Parula	14
Solitary Sandpiper	10	Cedar Waxwing	7	Magnolia Warbler	17
Lesser Yellowlegs	125	White-breasted Nuthatch	39	Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Greater Yellowlegs	17	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	23	Blackburnian Warbler	11
Wilson's Phalarope	5	Carolina Wren	2	Yellow Warbler	72
Ring-billed Gull	46	House Wren	152	Chestnut-sided Warbler	24
Caspian Tern	6	Marsh Wren	1	Blackpoll Warbler	18
Double-crested Cormorant	234	Gray Catbird	164	Palm Warbler	29
Am. White Pelican	2000	Brown Thrasher	8	Yellow-rumped Warbler	32
Great Blue Heron	10	European Starling	95	Yellow-throated Warbler	3
Green Heron	2	Eastern Bluebird	58	Black-thr. Green Warbler	6
Turkey Vulture	128	Veery	3	Canada Warbler	1
Osprey	6	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	Wilson's Warbler	6
Cooper's Hawk	2	Swainson's Thrush	14	Scarlet Tanager	24
Bald Eagle	19	Wood Thrush	4	Northern Cardinal	164
Broad-winged Hawk	4	American Robin	202	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	64
Red-tailed Hawk	27	House Sparrow	213	Indigo Bunting	88

Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	18	Dickcissel	25
Great Horned Owl	2	American Pipit	1		
Barred Owl	7	House Finch	26		