

# 2025 Johnson County Spring Migration Count

## Chris Caster

This year's Johnson County Spring Migration Count was held on Saturday, May 10. At sunrise, when a few of us were owling, it was a cool 48 degrees. And the rest of the morning was really nice. But after our noon lunch the wind began to gust and it got stupid hot, topping out at a wholly unseasonable 85 degrees by mid-afternoon. I think the birds felt it too, because the avian activity had ceased by that time. To my surprise we managed 162 species. We had 9 species of waterfowl, 17 shorebirds, and 25 warblers.

Best bird goes to a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Lake Macbride State Park. This is an unusual bird for us in the spring. Only once did we have that before and it was in Jim Fuller's backyard of all places. Other nice warblers included a Prothonotary and a Louisiana Waterthrush at Turkey Creek Preserve. Another Louisiana and a Kentucky Warbler were at Squire Point, as was an Acadian Flycatcher. No longer considered a warbler, Yellow-bellied Chats were found at Terry Trueblood, along Amana Road, and near the Mallard Ponds on the south side of the Hawkeye Wildlife Area. White-eyed Vireos were in five locations and Bell's Vireos in four. Summer Tanagers were found along Clear Creek in Coralville and at Ryerson's Woods. A Willet, American Avocet, and Black-bellied Plovers were seen from Amana Road. American Golden Plovers and a Western Meadowlark were along Taft Ave in the southeastern part of the county. A Purple Finch was at Terry Trueblood. Lastly, this is only the second Spring Count in which Trumpeter Swans have been found.

The biggest miss was Blue Grosbeak. They had been reported from more than one location in the preceding week. Next biggest miss was Eastern Screech-Owl. One had been found on the Christmas Bird Count last year. No Black-necked Stilts were located after finding them breeding at HWA the last two years. Neither Northern Mockingbird nor Loggerhead Shrike could be found. Cerulean Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow were also missed.

Thanks to Deb Rolfes for creating a Spring Count Checklist Board. And Linda Quinn for helping to organize.

Participants (28): Kyle and Lauren Belcher, Tom Bootsmiller, Jayden Bowen, Mary Bowler, Brian Broderick, Mark Brown, Chris Caster, Gerald Denning, Karen Disbrow, Mark and Sandy Eads, Chris Edwards, Jacob Fidoten, Laura Harwood, Carson Kephart, Mark Madsen, Jamie McCoy, Jason McCurdy, Ramona McGurk, Mary Noble, Hai-Dang Phan, Jason Paulios, Robert Peck, Linda Quinn, Deb and Mark Rolfes, Janet Seiz, Jane Shuttleworth, Jean Wiese, Eliza Willis.

### SPECIES LIST

Canada Goose	300	Pied-billed Grebe	1	Killdeer	30
Trumpeter Swan	3	Rock Pigeon	21	Semipalmated Plover	84
Wood Duck	53	Eurasian Collared-Dove	1	Dunlin	63
Blue-winged Teal	20	Mourning Dove	74	Least Sandpiper	83
Northern Shoveler	6	Common Nighthawk	2	Pectoral Sandpiper	13
Mallard	64	Chimney Swift	12	Semipalmated Sandpiper	10
Northern Pintail	1	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	Short-billed Dowitcher	8
Green-winged Teal	4	Sora	3	American Woodcock	3
Lesser Scaup	1	American Coot	12	Spotted Sandpiper	16
Hooded Merganser	5	Sandhill Crane	9	Solitary Sandpiper	5
Northern Bobwhite	1	American Avocet	1	Lesser Yellowlegs	28
Wild Turkey	7	Black-bellied Plover	4	Willet	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	26	American Golden Plover	2	Greater Yellowlegs	5

Wilson's Phalarope	2	Marsh Wren	2	Yellow Warbler	50
Ring-billed Gull	126	Gray Catbird	181	Chestnut-sided Warbler	15
Caspian Tern	2	Brown Thrasher	8	Blackpoll Warbler	5
Black Tern	1	European Starling	160	Black-throated Blue Warbler	1
Forster's Tern	7	Eastern Bluebird	25	Palm Warbler	9
Double-crested Cormorant	131	Veery	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	12
American White Pelican	532	Swainson's Thrush	17	Yellow-throated Warbler	7
Great Blue Heron	92	Wood Thrush	7	Black-throated Green Warbler	1
Great Egret	14	American Robin	250	Wilson's Warbler	1
Green Heron	2	House Sparrow	148	Summer Tanager	2
Turkey Vulture	102	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	43	Scarlet Tanager	31
Osprey	4	American Pipit	1	Northern Cardinal	180
Cooper's Hawk	1	House Finch	20	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	106
Bald Eagle	23	Purple Finch	1	Indigo Bunting	125
Red-tailed Hawk	3	American Goldfinch	173	Dickcissel	8
Great Horned Owl	1	Grasshopper Sparrow	12		
Barred Owl	8	Lark Sparrow	10		
Belted Kingfisher	5	Chipping Sparrow	32		
Red-headed Woodpecker	44	Field Sparrow	52		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	52	White-crowned Sparrow	29		
Downy Woodpecker	48	White-throated Sparrow	13		
Hairy Woodpecker	20	Vesper Sparrow	1		
Northern Flicker	13	Savannah Sparrow	6		
Pileated Woodpecker	7	Song Sparrow	56		
American Kestrel	5	Lincoln's Sparrow	4		
Great Crested Flycatcher	63	Swamp Sparrow	3		
Eastern Kingbird	42	Eastern Towhee	35		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	14	Yellow-breasted Chat	3		
Acadian Flycatcher	2	Bobolink	10		
Willow Flycatcher	1	Eastern Meadowlark	25		
Eastern Phoebe	22	Western Meadowlark	1		
White-eyed Vireo	5	Meadowlark sp.	3		
Bell's Vireo	5	Orchard Oriole	19		
Yellow-throated Vireo	38	Baltimore Oriole	168		
Blue-headed Vireo	6	Red-winged Blackbird	729		
Warbling Vireo	74	Brown-headed Cowbird	97		
Red-eyed Vireo	37	Common Grackle	38		
Blue Jay	160	Ovenbird	3		
American Crow	49	Louisiana Waterthrush	2		
Black-capped Chickadee	84	Northern Waterthrush	4		
Tufted Titmouse	49	Golden-winged Warbler	9		
Horned Lark	10	Blue-winged Warbler	2		
Bank Swallow	8	Black-and-white Warbler	9		
Tree Swallow	237	Prothonotary Warbler	1		
N. Rough-winged Swallow	19	Tennessee Warbler	115		
Purple Martin	88	Orange-crowned Warbler	2		
Barn Swallow	81	Nashville Warbler	27		
Cliff Swallow	324	Kentucky Warbler	1		
Cedar Waxwing	14	Common Yellowthroat	154		
White-breasted Nuthatch	42	American Redstart	165		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	29	Northern Parula	21		
Carolina Wren	9	Magnolia Warbler	4		
Northern House Wren	220	Bay-breasted Warbler	2		
Sedge Wren	1	Blackburnian Warbler	3		