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2001-2002 Christmas Bird Counts Introduced and Compiled by Janis Paseka

A total of 12 counts are recorded on Tables Two and Three, three more than last year's effort. The Beaver Valley and Grand Island counts are run most years, but we sometimes miss receiving data from them. DeSoto-Boyer is run every year but does not always get published here, perhaps because the tally is listed as an Iowa count according to the Audubon Society; however, the area covered is partially in Nebraska, and the participants are mostly Nebraska birders.

The counts reported a total of 138 species this year, up from 133 in 1999 and from 117 in 2000. Nearly 230,000 individual birds were counted, compared to approximately 240,000 in 1999 and nearly 138,000 in 2000. Lake McConaughy topped the list with 103 species, 10 more than the lake's 2000 total. Branched Oak registered the highest tally of individual birds, with nearly 41,000 counted. DeSoto-Boyer was second with nearly 39,000 birds. These counts both owed their high totals of individuals to Snow Goose counts in the 30,000 range. 43 species were seen in only one circle; and 17 species were seen in all 12 circles. 24 species were reported as single individuals.

As usual, the Omaha count had the highest number of counters: 35 in the field and 3 feeder watchers. Lincoln came in second with 28 field observers and 1 feeder watcher. At total of 164 field observers and 21 feeder watchers participated in this year's count.

This year's weather varied from darned cold--5° at the start of the Crawford count and only 20° at the warmest location, at the start of the Calamus-Loup count--to temperate. Seven of the counts ended up with high temperatures in the 40s and 50s. Counters at DeSoto-Boyer will no doubt remember for a long time to come how difficult it is to drive, to walk, and to record numbers in heavy snow. Not all the counts listed wind data, although wind can play a major role on a count day. The Harlan County count recorded south winds of 20 to 40 miles per hour, which no doubt make the observers' day interesting.

The Counts Produced The Following Highlights:

We accomplished a Grebe Sweep this year: all six species on the Nebraska list were seen for the first time in recent memory (ever?). Five species were spotted at Lake McConaughy and the sixth (a Pied-billed) was identified at Omaha. Also, single White Pelicans were recorded in five count circles this year.

An unusually high number of Greater White-fronted Geese were observed this year: a total of 48 individuals at five counts. Snow Geese numbers were also sky high: nearly 62,000, compared to 742 in 2000 and 1,872 in 1999.

Ducks were also well represented, with 22 species present. Highlights included the Tufted Duck, White-winged Scoter, a Barrow's Goldeneye at Lake McConaughy, and a Long-tailed Duck at Lincoln.

Bald Eagles were counted at every location, with a total of 212 observed. Goshawks were found at Lake McConaughy and Norfolk and seen during the week of the count at DeSoto. Three Ferruginous Hawks were identified at Lake McConaughy, and every count reported Rough-legged Hawks. And a lone Peregrine Falcon showed up at the Branched Oak count.

We had a high number of turkeys on this year's count, with 586 tallied. (No estimate on the number counting.) Only one Sharp-tailed Grouse appeared: at Lake McConaughy.

Five species of shorebirds were recorded: Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Common Snipe.

Eight gull species were represented, including Mew, Thayer's, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls spotted at Lake McConaughy.

Six owl species were noted, including one Snowy identified at Lake McConaughy. Only five Carolina Wrens were found, and no Winter Wrens were recorded. A total of six late Ruby-crowned Kinglets were tallied at four counts.

Pinyon Jays and Mountain Bluebirds were absent from all counts, but 117 Townsend's Solitaires were spotted. American Robins totaled over 11,000.

One lone Pine Warbler was identified during the week of the count, in Omaha. One Common Yellowthroat was discovered in Lincoln, and 28 Yellow-rumped Warblers were found in 6 count circles.

Lapland Longspurs were spotted only at Lake McConaughy, as were Snow Buntings. Only six Rusty Blackbirds were found (at Norfolk), and only one Brewer's Blackbird (at Omaha).

An impressive number of both crossbill species was reported: 68 Red C at 5 counts; and 8 White-winged at two counts.

2001 CBC Participants

Beaver Valley: Belle Esau, Mitzi Fox, Wayne Mollhoff, Colleen Noecker, and Don Noecker (compiler) (5).

Branched Oak-Seward: Mike Bessert, John Dinan, Larry Einemann, Mike Ellis, Joe Gubanyi (compiler), Sue Guild, Mark Humpert, Thomas Labeledz, Jeff Marcus, Don Paseka, Juanita Rice, and Scott Taylor (12).

Calamus-Loup: Loren Blake, Norma Brockmoller (compiler), Isolde Cutshall, Roger Cutshall, Darlene Finkhouse, Gene Gaddie, Robin Harding, David Heidt, Larry Randolph, Dave Stage, Michael Stage, Jan Uttecht, Duane Wolff, and Bonnie Wyle (14).

Crawford: Sue Amiotte, Randy Lawson, Bruce Walgren (compiler), and Donna Walgren (4).

Desoto: Laurine Blankenau, Kevin DeGarmo, Nelli Falzgraf, Clem Klaphake, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Steve Lamphere, Sue Mattix, J. Meyer, Kathleen Pyper, Melinda Sheets (compiler), Jerry Toll, and Pat Williams (13).

Grand Island: Filipe Chavez, Gennie Chavez, Gene Groff, Blake Hatfield, Larry Keller, Ron Kruse, Ann Druse, Connie McCartney (compiler), Vicky Orr, Patricia Smith, and Eric Volden (11).

Harlan County: Robin Harding, Glen Hodge, Wanda Hodge, Joel Jorgensen (compiler), Lanny Randolph (5).

Lake McConaughy: Stephen Dinsmore (compiler), Joe Fontaine, Robin Harding, Bill Huntley, Bette Klaphake, Clem Klaphake, Jim Meyer, Kay Niyo, Larry Randolph, Ross Silcock, Jerry Toll, and Darrell Wood (12).

Lincoln: Betty Adams, George Alexander, Irene Alexander, Linda Brown (compiler), Doug Campbell, Jackie Canterbury, John Carlini, Larry

Einemann, Joseph A. Gubanyi, Tim Knott, Josef Kren, Thomas E. Labeledz, Amy Leising, Linda Maslowski, Rosalind Morris, Mark Orsag, Todd Paddock, Kevin Poague, Ken Reitan, Ramona Rhodes, Carol Rustad, Shari Schwartz, Donald Showen, Dan Staehr, Emily S. Thaden, Moni Usasz, Joyce Vannier, and Lyle Vannier (29).

Norfolk: Norma Brockmoller, Ben Brogie, Ed Brogie, John Brogie, Joseph Brogie, Mark Brogie, Isolde Cutshall, Roger Cutshall, Gene Gaddie, David Heidt, Gene Kincanon, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Duane Wolff (compiler), and Marty Wolff (15).

Omaha: Betty Allen, Roland Barth, Elliott Bedows, Laurine Blankenau, David Crawford, Sharon Draper, Nelli Falzgraf, Bob Fuchs, Dick Gilson, Ruth Green, Betty Grenon (compiler), Mace Hack, Phil Hahn, Kris Hammond, Craig Hensley, Anna Keenan, Clem Klaphake, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Catherine Kuper, Steve Lamphere, Don Maas, Georgianne Meyer, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Richard Pelletier, Dick Rasmussen, Neal Ratzlaff, Mary Jo Rome, Kathleen Rose, Robert Rose, Eric Scholar, Kathy Schwery, David Smith, David Stage, and Terry Swirczek (38).

Scottsbluff: Sue Amiotte, Dean Drawbaugh, Phyllis Drawbaugh, Ann Duey, Helen Hughson, Alice Kenitz (compiler), Kathy Larson, Brad McKinney, Connie Mckinney, Valerie Naylor, Debbie Qualey, Irene Thompson, and James Thompson (13).

2001 CBC Site Data Note:

Many compilers listed observers and also “feeder watchers.” Table One, 2001 CBC Site Data, lists field observers first and feeder watchers second. Thus under “Observers” for Beaver Valley, for example, the count is listed as “4 + 1.”

Table One: 2001 CBC Site Data

Site Name	Date	Species	Individuals	Observers	Party Hrs	Low Temp	High Temp	Sky	Rain	Snow	Wind
Beaver Valley	15 Dec	32	317	4+1	7	30	45	Pt cldy	None	None	n/a
Branched Oak/Seward	16 Dec	73	40,998	11+1	47.75	39	47	Cldy am; clr pm	None	None	NW 0-10
Calamus-Loup	29 Dec	51	19,548	14	68.5	10	20	Pt cldy	None	None	n/a
Crawford	29 Dec	35	1,357	4	19.25	5	36	Clr to cldy	None	None	Calm
DeSoto-Boyer	22 Dec	63	38,735	13	42	12	19	Cldy	None	Heavy	n/a
Grand Island	22 Dec	68	20,718	11	38	15	25	Cldy	None	Light	5-10
Harlan Co	15 Dec	60	17,768	5	20	30	50	n/a	n/a	n/a	20-40
Lake McConaughy	16 Dec	103	18,402	11+11	44.5	19	44	Clr	None	None	n/a
Lincoln	16 Dec	71	18,675	28+1	85.25	37	55	Clr	None	None	S 0- 30
Norfolk	27 Dec	53	16,510	15+4	57	11	26	Pt cldy	None	None	n/a
Omaha	15 Dec	65	11,275	35+3	66.5	36	53	Pt cldy	None	None	n/a
Scottsbluff	15 Dec	54	25,371	13	29.5	19	43	Pt cldy to cldy	None	None	n/a
Totals		138	229,674	164 + 21	525.25						

Table 2: 2001 Christmas Bird Count

Species	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Harlan Co
American White Pelican		1			1	1	1
Double-Crested Cormorant		4			6		5
Great Blue Heron		7					
Great White Fronted-Goose			1		20	22	1
Snow Goose		28,910			33,031	12	1
Ross' Goose		8			1	1	
Canada Goose		2,081	1,990		378	7,749	301
Wood Duck				2		3	
Gadwall		15	6			3	4
American Wigeon		2	4			4	3
Mallard	5	4,840	1,553	2	1,016	5,298	1,212
Northern Shoveler		26					13
Northern Pintail		2				1	3
Green-winged Teal		6	1			6	

Species	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Harlan Co
Canvasback		14				3	2
Redhead		2				3	5
Ring-necked Duck						2	
Lesser Scaup	10					2	2
Bufflehead		1					3
Common Goldeneye		1	30		94	23	
Hooded Merganser		21			6		1
Common Merganser		38	675		2	3	12,000
Ruddy Duck		1			2		
Osprey						2	
Bald Eagle	4	3	23	2	34	21	51
Northern Harrier	7	8	7		3	14	8
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	2			5		1
Cooper's Hawk		1	3	1			
Red-tailed Hawk	5	39	15	2	28	25	32
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	2	6	2	9	3
Buteo sp.		1					

Species	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Harlan Co
Golden Eagle	1		1	1			
American Kestrel	1	7	4		1		1
Merlin	1			1	1	3	
Prairie Falcon						1	
Peregrine Falcon		1					
Ring-necked Pheasant	4	5	4	13	12	61	
Greater Prairie Chicken			2				
Wild Turkey			76		182	147	
Northern Bobwhite		45	12			1	
American Coot		9				2	6
Killdeer		1			1		
Common Snipe			1		1		
Franklin's Gull						1	
Bonaparte's Gull							1
Ring-billed Gull		315			58		2,360
Herring Gull		15					174
Thayer's Gull							1

Species	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Harlan Co
Rock Dove	1	11	15	37	70	436	27
Mourning Dove		2			48	8	
Eastern Screech-Owl		1			1	5	
Great Horned Owl	2	4	5		1	1	2
Barred Owl		1			1		
Long-eared Owl		1					
Short-eared Owl					1		
Belted Kingfisher		2			1	4	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	22	2		12	14	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1			1		
Downy Woodpecker	7	33	9	11	35	24	7
Hairy Woodpecker	3	3		3	4	3	1
Northern Flicker	4	52	57	7	45	29	17
Loggerhead Shrike			1			1	
Northern Shrike		3	4	2	1	3	
Blue Jay	2	54	8	2	17	55	2
Black-billed Magpie				35		9	16

Species	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Harlan Co
American Crow	52	560	3,880	20	214	593	108
Horned Lark			431		159	277	12
Black-capped Chickadee	14	122	91	40	97	82	25
Tufted Titmouse					8		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	13	4	2	3	6	
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	44	1	4	17		17
Brown Creeper		7	1	1		2	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet		14			5	7	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet							2
Eastern Bluebird		51	8		3	16	45
Townsend's Solitaire		5	9	10		3	
Hermit Thrush		1					
American Robin	3	819	7,039	147	820	591	263
European Starling	80	1,496	861	273	480	4,082	509
Cedar Waxwing	1	302	443	20	1	2	16
Yellow-rumped Warbler					3	1	17
American Tree Sparrow	18	170	605	149	776	293	52

Species	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Harlan Co
Field Sparrow						1	
Fox Sparrow		3					
Song Sparrow	1	2	3		14	4	7
White-throated Sparrow					2	1	
Harris' Sparrow		10	7		4	40	15
White-crowned Sparrow						21	10
Dark-eyed Junco	7	294	205	161	550	155	118
Lapland Longspur			154		1		
Northern Cardinal		90	6		59	29	6
Red-Winged Blackbird	1	22	1	7	220	58	46
Meadowlark sp.		17			3	38	4
Common Grackle	1		2			1	1
Brown-headed Cowbird					20		
Purple Finch				12			
House Finch	8	34	23	34	17	142	16
Red Crossbill		20		41			1
White-winged Crossbill				1			

Species	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Harlan Co
Pine Siskin		4		97	1		2
American Goldfinch	14	196	1,064	88	16	44	165
House Sparrow	60	69	197	123	119	234	35
TOTAL SPECIES	35	76	54	38	66	71	63
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	317	40,998	19,548	1,357	38,735	20,718	17,768

Table Three: 2001 Christmas Bird Count

Species	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Scottsbluff	Total	Number of Counts
Common Loon	1					1	1
Pie-billed Grebe				5		5	1
Horned Grebe	2					2	1
Red-necked Grebe	2					2	1
Eared Grebe	2					2	1
Western Grebe	122					122	1
Clark's Grebe	1					1	1
American White Pelican	1					5	5
Double-Crested Cormorant						15	3
Great Blue Heron	7	7			6	27	4
Great White Fronted-Goose		4				48	5
Snow Goose	1	6		11		61,972	7
Ross' Goose						10	3
Canada Goose	4,417	6,794	6	786	8,683	33,185	10

Species	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Scottsbluff	Total	Number of Counts
Trumpeter Swan	26					26	1
Wood Duck				1	1	7	4
Gadwall	302	26		8	1	365	8
American Wigeon	148				100	261	6
Mallard	1,096	332		432	8,715	24,501	11
Northern Shoveler		7				46	3
Northern Pintail	1				12	19	5
Green-winged Teal	10	12			2	37	6
Canvasback	39			12		70	5
Redhead	126	10		2	4	152	7
Ring-necked Duck	106	2		3		113	4
Tufted Duck	1					1	1
Greater Scaup	54					54	1
Lesser Scaup	403	9		25	9	460	7
White-winged Scoter	1					1	1
Long-tailed Duck		1				1	1
Bufflehead	800	6		33		843	5

Species	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Scottsbluff	Total	Number of Counts
Common Goldeneye	785	10		264	96	1,303	8
Hooded Merganser				21		49	4
Common Merganser	2,834	20		17	3	15,592	9
Red-Breasted Merganser	32					32	1
Ruddy Duck	1	8		327		339	5
Osprey						2	1
Bald Eagle	16	1	8	30	19	212	12
Northern Harrier	9	8	6		4	74	10
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	3	3	2	2	22	9
Cooper's Hawk	1	3	4		1	14	7
Goshawk	1		1			2	2
Red-Shouldered Hawk				1		1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	27	54	61	77	16	381	12
Ferruginous Hawk	3					3	1
Rough-legged Hawk	6	2	8	1	3	45	12
Buteo sp.		6			2	9	3
Golden Eagle	2				2	7	5

Species	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Scottsbluff	Total	Number of Counts
American Kestrel	26	12	15	14	25	106	10
Merlin	2		1		1	10	7
Prairie Falcon	4				2	7	3
Peregrine Falcon						1	1
Raptor sp.		1				1	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	17	72	1	3	193	11
Sharp-tailed Grouse	1					1	1
Greater Prairie Chicken	1					3	2
Wild Turkey	6		5	101	69	586	7
Northern Bobwhite	15	5	25			103	6
Virginia Rail	1					1	1
American Coot	484	15				516	5
Killdeer	9	9		2		22	5
Spotted Sandpiper		2				2	1
Least Sandpiper		1				1	1
Pectoral Sandpiper		1				1	1
Common Snipe	3		2	2	2	11	6

Species	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Scottsbluff	Total	Number of Counts
Franklin's Gull				150		151	2
Bonaparte's Gull						1	1
Mew Gull	1					1	1
Ring-billed Gull	884	1,119		798	2	5,616	7
California Gull	29					29	1
Herring Gull	66	1		5		261	5
Thayer's Gull	3					4	2
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1					1	1
Rock Dove	43	592	862	144	166	2,404	12
Eurasian Collared-Dove	5					5	1
Mourning Dove	2	41		28		129	6
Eastern Screech-Owl	1		5	1		14	6
Great Horned Owl	8	3	3			29	9
Snowy Owl	1					1	1
Barred Owl				2		4	3
Long-eared Owl	12		6			19	3
Short-eared Owl	2					3	2

Species	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Scottsbluff	Total	Number of Counts
Belted Kingfisher	7	5	4	3	5	31	8
Red-headed Woodpecker				17		17	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	38	24	101		223	10
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker						2	2
Downy Woodpecker	25	42	31	96	8	328	12
Hairy Woodpecker	10	4	11	20		62	10
Northern Flicker	33	32	46	50	38	410	12
Loggerhead Shrike						2	2
Northern Shrike	4		1		1	19	8
Blue Jay	3	153	109	40	73	518	12
Black-billed Magpie	86		31		126	303	6
American Crow	363	776	653	758	25	8,002	12
Horned Lark	87		62			1,028	6
Black-capped Chickadee	84	245	131	373	24	1,308	12
Tufted Titmouse				63		71	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch		10	10	11	1	62	10
White-breasted Nuthatch	13	47	40	169		354	10

Species	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Scottsbluff	Total	Number of Counts
Brown Creeper	10	22	6	15		66	9
Carolina Wren				5		5	1
Marsh Wren	1					1	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	7	14		13		60	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	1		2		6	4
Eastern Bluebird		97	5	19		244	8
Townsend's Solitaire	70				20	117	6
Hermit Thrush						1	1
American Robin	381	453	370	85	123	11,094	12
European Starling	804	5,208	11,628	4,078	1,771	31,270	12
Cedar Waxwing	6	115	208	295		1,409	11
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4		1			28	6
Common Yellowthroat		1				1	1
Spotted Towhee	1	1				2	2
American Tree Sparrow	126	483	345	71	84	3,172	12
Field Sparrow						1	1
Fox Sparrow						3	1

Species	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Scottsbluff	Total	Number of Counts
Song Sparrow	26	1	8	8	9	83	11
Lincoln's Sparrow		1				1	1
White-throated Sparrow		3		2	2	10	5
Harris' Sparrow	5	35	57	4		177	9
White-crowned Sparrow	5	13			55	104	5
Dark-eyed Junco	781	517	376	415	235	3,814	12
Lapland Longspur	12		12			179	4
Snow Bunting	30					30	1
Northern Cardinal	22	104	44	135	2	497	10
Red-winged Blackbird	1,192	82	107	9	3,512	5,257	12
Meadowlark sp.	19	2	7		1	91	8
Yellow-headed Blackbird					1	1	1
Rusty Blackbird			6			6	1
Brewer's Blackbird				1		1	1
Common Grackle	1		1			7	6
Brown-headed Cowbird	37	1	3		6	67	5
blackbird sp.		15				15	1

Species	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Scottsbluff	Total	Number of Counts
Purple Finch	3	22	2	10		49	5
House Finch	151	132	28	60	114	759	12
Red Crossbill		5			1	68	5
White-winged Crossbill			7			8	2
Common Redpoll	1					1	1
Pine Siskin	477	5		12	163	761	8
American Goldfinch	415	293	56	162	802	3,315	12
House Sparrow	99	467	987	867	218	3,475	12
TOTAL SPECIES	106	74	56	68	57	138	
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	18,402	18,675	16,510	11,275	25,371	229,668	