1985 Christmas Count
This Christmas Count includes 101 species, two more than last year, and three species (compared to two last year) were recorded as present during the count period but not recorded on the count day on any count. Two additional localities (Beaver Valley - northwest Boone Co. - and Norfolk) brought the total reporting areas to ten. Fourteen species, compared to eighteen last year, were reported from all localities this year. The total individual count this year was 124,642, compared to 345,092 last year and 43,652 in 1983. The Red-winged Blackbird count for Omaha last year was 255,806, this year it was 32. The columns are arranged in an approximate west (left) to east (right) order, with the northernmost of those with about equal longitude given first. The symbol H is used to indicate a species which was present during the count week, but not recorded on the count day. Figures which were underlined on the reports, or which were marked "high," are underlined in the table, and those that were marked "low" are overlined. Sightings reported as "species" are not included in the species count if any of that group were reported.

**Beaver Valley**, center NW corner of sec. 5, T2IN, R7W., 1.5 mi. S. and 4 mi. W. of Petersburg, including Petersburg, Raeville, Loretto, and Akron (all in northwestern Boone Co.); elevation 1850 to 2150 ft.; habitat coverage: farmland 52%, native grassland 40%, bushy swamp 4%, deciduous woods 28%, coniferous woods 1%, shelterbelts 1%. Dec. 27; 7:45 AM to 5:15 PM. AM mostly clear; intermittent moderate snow; PM mostly clear. Temp. 24° to 19° F. Wind NW, 25-40 mph. Snow cover 0 to 4 in. Fresh water partly open. Wild food crop good. Four observers in 1 party. Total party hours 9.5 (5.5 on foot, 4 by car), total party miles 47 (6 on foot, 41 by car).

**DeSoto NWR**, center refuge headquarters building, west to Blair and east to Missouri Valley, Iowa, including all of the refuge, Wilson Island, and Fort Calhoun; elevation 992 to 1375 ft.; habitat coverage: cultivated fields 40%, woodlands and open brush 40%, water 5%, urban and residential 15%; Jan. 4; 7 AM to 5 PM, mostly clear all day. Temp. 20° to 32° F. Wind NW 25-30 mph. Fresh water mostly frozen. Wild food crop good. Twenty-six observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 46.75 (10.5 on foot, 36.25 by car), plus .25 owling; total party-miles 11.5 (14.5 on foot, 37 by car), plus 3 miles owling.

**Grand Island**, center NW 1/4, NW 1, Sec. 1, T10N, R10W, to include all of Grand Island, Cornhusker State WMA, south half of Hall Co. Airport, and Crystal Lake; elevation 1840 to 1945 ft.; habitat coverage: woodland 50%, freshwater 30%, residential 10%, open field/cropland 10%. Dec. 21; 7:45 AM to 6 PM. AM mostly clear, fog; PM clear. Temp. 23° to 44° F. Wind SW 5 mph. Snow cover 0 to 2 in. Fresh water mostly frozen. Wild food crop good. Twelve observers in 6 parties, total party-hours 29.5 (10.5 on foot, 19 by car), total party-miles 253 (12 on foot, 241 by car).

**Kearney**, center bridge over the Platte River south of Kearney, including Kearney Cemetery, Harmon Park, Cottonmill Lake Park, Odessa bridge, Fort Kearney Historical Park and Recreational Area, Fawn Lake area and connecting roads; elevation around 2150 ft.; habitat coverage: parks and cemetery 30%, river bottomlands 30%, roadsides 30%, feeding stations 10%. Dec. 28; 8 AM to 12:30 PM., 1:30 PM to 5 PM. Wind southerly, switching to northerly in the morning; 10 to 25 mph. Ground patchy with snow. River partly frozen. Nineteen observers, 14 in 1 party, and 5 at feeders; total party-miles 58.5 (15 on foot, 57 by car).
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<td><strong>Hermit Thrush</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Europ. Starling</strong></td>
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Song Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sp.  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-cr. Sp.  
Harris' Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Slate-col. Oregon Undesig.  
Lapland Longsp.  
Red-w. Blackbird  
W. Meadowlark  
Meadowlark sp.  
Yellow-h. Black.  
Rusty Blackbird  
Brewer's Blackb.  
Common Grackle  
Brown-h. Cowbird  
blackbird sp.  
Purple Finch  
House Finch  
Red Crossbill  
Common Redpoll  
Pine Siskin  
Am. Goldfinch  
Evening Grosbeak  
House Sparrow  
Species reported  
Add. races  
Present not seen  
Total Individ.

North Platte. Center Centennial and Philip streets; elevation around 2810 ft.; Jan. 3; 8 AM to 5 PM, clear until 4:30 PM. Temp. 15° to 45° F. Wind 3 mph until about 2 PM, increased to 10-15 mph. until 3:30 PM, increased to 25-30 mph. Fields covered with snow, road conditions good. Four observers full time: Eva Mae Kieborz, Margaret Morton; Esther Newhouse, Carol Somerhalder; Harold Cunningham part time. Wilma Wyman, compiler.

Omaha. Center Offutt Air Force Base Lake, to include Fontenelle Forest, Lake Manawa (Iowa) State Park, Plattsmouth Waterfowl Refuge, and portions of the Platte and Missouri rivers; elevation 985 to 1200 ft.; habitat coverage: woodlands 50%, cultivated fields 30%, meadows and grassy fields 8%, roadside ditches 5%, rivers and lakes 5%, residential, parks, and cemeteries 2%. Dec 28; 5:30 AM to 5 PM, mostly clear all day. Temp. 12° to 37° F. Wind SE 5-10 mph. Snow cover 0 to 2 in. Fresh water mostly frozen. Wild food crop good. Thirty-six observers, 34 in 11 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours 86.25 (42 on foot, 44.25 by car) plus 2.5 hours at feeders, 3 owl; total party-miles 581.7 (43.7 on foot, 538 by car) plus 10 miles owl. Jeanne & Jon Bakehouse, Shelly Bonsall, Tanya Bray, Duane Bright, Ric Chamberlin, Kelly Clarke, Bennie Cohen, James Conway, James Ducey, Sue Gentles, James Glather, Ruth Green, Alan & Betty (compiler) Grenon, Gregg Hegner, Debbie Jensen, R. C. & Ray Korpi, James & Sandra Kovanda, Steve Matherly, Ralph Morocco, William Otto, Babes & Loren Padelford, Chris Rasmussen, Neal Ratzlaff, Harold & Marie, Rock, Bob & Jerry Starr, Barbara Wilson.

Scottsbluff, center bridge over North Platte River at S. Broadway, to include Scottsbluff and Gering; elevation 3810 to 5030 ft.; Dec. 21; 7 AM to 4 PM, mostly clear all day. Temp. 25° to 42° F. Wind W. 0-16 mph. Snow cover 0-12 in. Fresh water partly open. Wild food crop poor. Eight observers, 5 in 2 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party-hours 13 (1 on foot, 12 by car) plus 12 hours at feeders; total party-miles 171 (2.5 on foot, 168.5 by car). Joyce Brashear, Jamalee Clark, Mary Harvey, Helen Hughson, Alice (compiler) & Lee Kenitz, Lynne Vacanti, Now Mack Gene, (Wildcat Audubon Society). Tristate. Center Mile 556 on the Missouri River, to include Nebraska City and the Missouri River bottoms and farmlands in Nebraska, Waubonsie State Park and Hamburg in Iowa, and extreme northwest Missouri down to the Nishnabotna River; elevation 900 to 1270 ft.; habitat coverage: farmland 50%, park, residential 25%, woodland 18%, streamside 5%, riverbank 2%. Dec. 22; 6 AM to 5 PM, nice day, brief period of wind in PM. Wind NW 0-15 mph. Snow cover 6-8 in., Nine observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 18 (3 on foot, 15 by car) plus 4 hours at feeder, 1 owl; total party-miles 168 (2 on foot, 166 by car). Marjorie Birkman, Tanya Bray, Jou Grisch, Rebecca Johnson, Babes & Loren Padelford, Jacque & Ross (compiler) Silcock, Barbara Wilson.

Bill Huser reported that on the Sioux City count, taken Dec. 21, there were the following Dakota Co. Nebraska sightings, presumably at Snyder's Bend Lake, the state line (JCB 33:23): 2 Great Blue Herons, 1150 Mallards, Bald Eagle, Northern Shrike, Yellow-headed and Rusty Blackbirds, and these would qualify for "H": Northern Goshawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Evening Grosbeak.