

3-2010

2009–2010 Christmas Bird Counts

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2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

Fourteen Christmas Bird Counts were held in Nebraska in the 2009-2010 season. The Ames count was cancelled due to weather, the Beaver Valley count returned after a year's absence, and the North Platte count was reinstated after not being officially run since the 1985-86 season. Although the average high and low temperatures were not exceptional, heavy snow cover affected most, if not all, of the counts. Roads were closed due to snow drifts, open water was limited, and at least three counts had to be rescheduled. The total number of species (116) was the lowest since 103 in 1997.

Interesting results included a record number of Trumpeter Swans (43), low duck numbers including no Canvasbacks (first miss since 1997), and an increase in numbers of all five Galliformes. Loons and grebes were absent except for one Western Grebe at Lake McConaughy. Raptor totals were generally down; a highlight was a Northern Goshawk at Norfolk. The nine American Coots was the lowest total since 1996.

Gulls were down in both numbers and diversity. Eight species and 1298 individuals were recorded on Nebraska CBCs in 2008 (most at Lake McConaughy), while this year only two species (Ring-billed and Herring) and 29 individuals were found.

Numbers of Columbiformes increased this year, possibly due to the birds being more concentrated and easier to find. A count-week White-winged Dove was found at Scottsbluff, the first one since 2005, which was also in Scottsbluff.

Overall Black-capped Chickadee numbers were down from 942 in 2008 to 814 this year, despite gains in some circles (from 31 in 2008 to 66 in 2009 at Branched Oak-Seward and from 3 in 2008 to 23 in '09 at Calamus-Loup). The Omaha tally went from 354 in 2008 to 262 this year. Nine Winter Wrens were recorded, which was an all-time high. Eighteen Carolina Wrens were tallied, a decade high, although those numbers will likely be lower next year, after this year's hard winter. Fox Sparrow rebounded to 28 after a low of 2 last year, and 142 Song Sparrows were found, a decade high count.

Icterid numbers were generally high. An impressive 37,570 Red-winged Blackbirds were counted at North Platte, although that number is dwarfed by the 255,806 found in Omaha in 1984. The 668 Common Grackles was the highest total since 1984, when 6097 were found. The 664 Great-tailed Grackles recorded (all from Grand Island and North Platte) was a new all-time high, and the 243 Brown-headed Cowbirds (181 at DeSoto) was the highest since 299 in 1984.

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Count Participants

Beaver Valley Belle Esau, William Flack, Mitzi Fox, Robin Harding, Colleen Noecker, Don Noecker (compiler), Lanny Randolph (7)

Branched Oak- Seward John Carlini, Alisha Clubb, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Kathleen French, Zane Grabau, Joseph Gubanyi (compiler), Thomas Labedz, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, John Quinn, Sarah Rehme, Jessica Ripke, Shari Schwartz, Jerry Toll, Shane Tucker (16)

Continued on page 26

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak - Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison	Lake McConaughy
Greater White-fronted Goose								
Snow Goose								
Ross's Goose								
Cackling Goose			2			1		6
Canada Goose		282	587	51	140	4,366		1,991
Trumpeter Swan			25					17
Wood Duck						8		
Gadwall			6					8
American Wigeon			16					3
Mallard	155	4	211	cw	2	1,575	5	364
Northern Shoveler						6		
Northern Pintail								1
Green-winged Teal			22					7
Redhead								
Ring-necked Duck								
Lesser Scaup								1
Bufflehead								20
Common Goldeneye			19		13	21		70
Hooded Merganser			1					8
Common Merganser			33		20			242
Red-breasted Merganser								1
Ruddy Duck								
Duck sp.		10			20			
Ring-necked Pheasant	40	36	7	73	386	1		43
Sharp-tailed Grouse			27	7				
Greater Prairie-Chicken	167		219			36		7
Wild Turkey		18	250	271	256	160	9	7
Northern Bobwhite	1	33	23			25		
Western Grebe								1
American White Pelican								1
Great Blue Heron	1					2		3
Osprey								

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca	Scottsbluff	Total
Greater White-fronted Goose		8	2				10
Snow Goose	3	4	1	2			10
Ross's Goose			cw				cw
Cackling Goose		3	1	26		17	56
Canada Goose	4,973	2,116	1,299	2,813		15,268	33,886
Trumpeter Swan				1			43
Wood Duck	6	1				1	16
Gadwall		1	cw			9	24
American Wigeon			12			14	45
Mallard	1,301	176	811	411	6	3,358	8,379
Northern Shoveler			2	8		8	24
Northern Pintail			5			1	7
Green-winged Teal	3		6			6	44
Redhead				1		4	5
Ring-necked Duck			8			9	17
Lesser Scaup				2			3
Bufflehead				1			21
Common Goldeneye			60	81	21	117	402
Hooded Merganser	1		6			1	17
Common Merganser	2			65	1		363
Red-breasted Merganser							1
Ruddy Duck				1			1
Duck sp.							30
Ring-necked Pheasant	74	36	14	12	122	11	855
Sharp-tailed Grouse							34
Greater Prairie-Chicken			40				469
Wild Turkey	72	1	100	403	112	50	1,709
Northern Bobwhite	17	15		7			121
Western Grebe							1
American White Pelican							1
Great Blue Heron	4		3			1	14
Osprey						1	1

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak - Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison	Lake McConaughy
Bald Eagle	3	5	29	8	24	6		67
adult				8	16	5		
immature					8	1		
unspecified age	3	5	29					67
Northern Harrier	1	4	1	1	3	5		7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	7	2		3	4		2
Cooper's Hawk		2	4		1	1		3
Northern Goshawk								
Red-tailed Hawk	9	63	8	12	61	25		26
Rough-legged Hawk	1	2	1	15	5	3	5	1
Buteo sp.			2	1				
Golden Eagle			1				1	
American Kestrel	5	4		3	8	20		11
Merlin			1	1	1			1
Peregrine Falcon								
Prairie Falcon			1			2		
Falcon sp.								
Virginia Rail								1
American Coot			1			4		
Killdeer								2
Wilson's Snipe			4					3
Ring-billed Gull								14
Herring Gull								12
Rock Pigeon	31	358	41	46	95	476	30	126
Eurasian Collared-Dove	63	14	9	77	3	146	39	148
White-winged Dove								
Mourning Dove		16			4	19		2
Eastern Screech-Owl		3	3		3	7		2
Great Horned Owl	1	13	2	2	1			6
Barred Owl		6			3			
Long-eared Owl		8						1
Short-eared Owl								1
Owl sp.								

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca	Scottsbluff	Total
Bald Eagle	1	4	8	36	4	4	199
adult			6			3	38
immature			2			1	12
unspecified age	1	4		36	4		149
Northern Harrier			1	5	1	2	31
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	4	2	1	1	CW	33
Cooper's Hawk	3			2	1		17
Northern Goshawk		1					1
Red-tailed Hawk	39	22	14	86	28	29	422
Rough-legged Hawk	1	4		1	5	3	47
Buteo sp.	3	1				1	8
Golden Eagle							2
American Kestrel	13	12	11	12		17	116
Merlin		1	2				7
Peregrine Falcon	1						1
Prairie Falcon			2				5
Hawk sp.	1						1
Virginia Rail							1
American Coot	2	1				1	9
Killdeer							2
Wilson's Snipe		1	1	1			10
Ring-billed Gull			3				17
Herring Gull							12
Rock Pigeon	1,039	396	229	279	35	1,046	4,227
Eurasian Collared-Dove		113	86	28	1	129	856
White-winged Dove						CW	CW
Mourning Dove	169	2		63	13		288
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	1					22
Great Horned Owl	9	3	2	1		3	43
Barred Owl	4	1		2	1		17
Long-eared Owl		1					10
Short-eared Owl							1
Owl sp.	1			1			2

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak - Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison	Lake McConaughy
Belted Kingfisher		1	2			4		3
Red-headed Woodpecker								1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	70	3		39	11		6
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1						
Downy Woodpecker		73	7	5	61	27	1	33
Hairy Woodpecker	5	11	5	1	8	2	1	3
Northern Flicker	12	115	19	10	39	56	1	70
Loggerhead Shrike	1					1		
Northern Shrike		8	10	4	cw	5	1	2
Shrike sp.								
Blue Jay	7	214	8	10	75	25	1	28
Black-billed Magpie	3							31
American Crow	26	372	587	30	350	34	6	3
Horned Lark	1	141	145	144	32	125	216	933
Black-capped Chickadee	2	66	23	33	185	4	9	18
Tufted Titmouse					12			
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	2	1	1	1		3	9
White-breasted Nuthatch	17	86	11	4	58	11	1	12
Pygmy Nuthatch				1				
Brown Creeper	2	4	1		1			2
Carolina Wren		2				2		
Winter Wren		2			1			
Marsh Wren			1					1
Golden-crowned Kinglet		11						7
Eastern Bluebird		147	7		10			28
Mountain Bluebird								2
Townsend's Solitaire				cw			2	6
Hermit Thrush		1						
American Robin	340	1,233	2,445	43	2	184	1	687
Gray Catbird								
Brown Thrasher								
European Starling	274	1,447	1,945	495	899	2,962	67	1,048
Cedar Waxwing	30	239	13		101	260		13

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca	Scottsbluff	Total
Belted Kingfisher	10	1	2			2	25
Red-headed Woodpecker	10			1	1		13
Red-bellied Woodpecker	44	13	5	122	16	1	331
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker							1
Downy Woodpecker	147	21	10	147	11	5	548
Hairy Woodpecker	19	8	3	17	2	1	86
Northern Flicker	58	14	11	26	8	22	461
Loggerhead Shrike							2
Northern Shrike	3	1	1		1	1	37
Shrike sp.				1			1
Blue Jay	256	29	14	98	39	104	908
Black-billed Magpie						10	44
American Crow	62	40	82	79	28	13	1,712
Horned Lark	160	163	30	125	417	151	2,783
Black-capped Chickadee	99	47	2	262	52	12	814
Tufted Titmouse				55			67
Red-breasted Nuthatch	18	3	3	2		5	51
White-breasted Nuthatch	95	41	9	184	15	cw	544
Pygmy Nuthatch							1
Brown Creeper	20	3		17			50
Carolina Wren	3			6			13
Winter Wren	2			4			9
Marsh Wren							2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16	3					37
Eastern Bluebird	82	3	2	45			324
Mountain Bluebird							2
Townsend's Solitaire						5	13
Hermit Thrush	3						4
American Robin	686	18	90	28		437	6,194
Gray Catbird			1				1
Brown Thrasher	cw				1		1
European Starling	2,235	1,932	11,062	2,002	60	1,498	27,926
Cedar Waxwing	56	1	7	143			863

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak - Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison	Lake McConaughy
Yellow-rumped Warbler		15						
Spotted Towhee		1			1			1
Eastern Towhee								
American Tree Sparrow	88	720	634	337	204	408		120
Fox Sparrow		17			3	3		
Song Sparrow		21	2		26	4		4
Lincoln's Sparrow								
Swamp Sparrow								
White-throated Sparrow		7			11			
Harris's Sparrow		56	8		28	22		3
White-crowned Sparrow						5		5
Dark-eyed Junco	26	904	251	115	681	749	14	672
Slate-colored		122	55	43	330		7	206
Oregon		14	3	18			3	87
Pink-sided				3	1			37
unspecified subspecies	26	768	193	51	350	749	4	342
Lapland Longspur		92			cw			759
Snow Bunting								5
Northern Cardinal	7	199	7		148	50		17
Red-winged Blackbird	7	482	1		219	44		41
Western Meadowlark						125		
Meadowlark sp.		41			47			6
Rusty Blackbird		24	1		1			
Common Grackle		1				615	cw	
Great-tailed Grackle						510		
Brown-headed Cowbird		41			181	4		
Purple Finch		59						
House Finch	18	129	103	16	5	10	3	146
Red Crossbill							2	
Common Redpoll								
Pine Siskin		2	2	84				153
American Goldfinch	29	622	303	163	26	73	38	179
House Sparrow	45	550	171	139	477	312	72	248
TOTAL SPECIES	36	61	59	32	51	55	24	78
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	1,424	9,117	8,274	2,203	4,984	13,566	528	8,542

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca	Scottsbluff	Total
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1			2			18
Spotted Towhee							3
Eastern Towhee		1					1
American Tree Sparrow	490	410	61	266	36	16	3,790
Fox Sparrow	3	1			1		28
Song Sparrow	49	3	4	27		2	142
Lincoln's Sparrow				1			1
Swamp Sparrow			1	1			2
White-throated Sparrow	14			4			36
Harris's Sparrow	34	6	3	15	4		179
White-crowned Sparrow	2			22		35	69
Dark-eyed Junco	1,033	490	68	1,322	303	162	6,790
Slate-colored	195		59	1,322	2	40	2,381
Oregon	13		2			31	171
Pink-sided			7			7	55
unspecified subspecies	825	490			301	84	4,183
Lapland Longspur		12	2	1			866
Snow Bunting							5
Northern Cardinal	224	1	8	317	21	2	1,001
Red-winged Blackbird	49	1	37,570	12	317	98	38,841
Western Meadowlark	17		cw		1	cw	143
Meadowlark sp.	37	6		114			251
Rusty Blackbird		3		1	1		31
Common Grackle			50	1	1		668
Great-tailed Grackle			154				664
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	12		3			243
Purple Finch				8			67
House Finch	129	13	54	5	25	195	851
Red Crossbill	1						3
Common Redpoll	1						1
Pine Siskin	2		13	cw		79	335
American Goldfinch	146	167	80	151	111	116	2,204
House Sparrow	928	890	64	663	117	257	4,933
TOTAL SPECIES	64	59	59	68	40	51	116
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	14,996	7,286	52,197	10,652	1,941	23,340	159,050

CBC Participants, continued

Calamus-Loup Mark Brogie, William Flack, Kathi Gerten, Robin Harding, David Heidt (compiler), Brian Nelson, Lanny Randolph, Duane Wolff (8)

Crawford Kathy DeLara, Phyllis Drawbaugh, Bruce Walgren (compiler), Donna Walgren (4)

DeSoto Jonas Grundman, Chris Harman, Jim Hartman, Clem Klaphake, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Sue Mattix, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Jerry Toll, Steve Van Riper, Gary Vequist (12)

Grand Island Tom Blanchard, Tony Curtis, Dan Glomski, Karen Hamburger, Bob Hausmann, Michele Kock, Ron Kruse, Ann Kruse, Connie McCartney (compiler), Mary McCartney, Jim Meyer, Steve Morris, Patricia Smith, Enrique Weir, Erika Wilson, Chuck Witter (16)

Harrison Bruce Walgren (compiler), Donna Walgren (2)

Lake McConaughy Mary Cay Burger, Stephen Dinsmore (compiler), Keith Dyche, Luke Hamilton, Roger Hamilton, Helen Hughson, Bill Huntley, Alice Kenitz, Bette Klaphake, Clem Klaphake, Kay Niyo, Mary Sue Shoemaker, Ross Silcock (13)

Lincoln Irene Alexander, Colleen Babcock, Bob Boyce, Anita Breckbill, Karen Brown, Linda R. Brown (compiler), Barbara J. DiBernard, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Mike Foster, Joe Gubanyi, Sue Guild, Mike Hootman, Julie Huddle, Michelle Johnson, Tim Knott, Josef Kren, Thomas E. Labedz, Daniel Leger, Dwain Leonhardt, Linda Maslowski, Pete Maslowski, Bruce Mellberg, Kevin Poague, John Quinn, Ken Reitan, Terry Sims, April Stevenson, Ned Stringham, Chris Thody, Muffy Vrana, Jake Walker (32)

Norfolk Ben Brogie, Ed Brogie, Mark Brogie, Donna Christiansen, Robin Harding, David Heidt, Lanny Randolph, Paul Timm, Duane Wolff (compiler) (9)

North Platte Scott Allison, Monte Brown, Virginia Clark, Richard Darling, Sue Darling, Tim Hajda, Gregg Hoover, Roger Lawson, Lynn Dee Nielson, Jim Petersen, Marcia Petersen, Mary Sue Shoemaker, Matthew Walker, T.J. Walker (compiler) (14)

Omaha Elliott Bedows, Ruth Bentzinger, Laurine Blankenau, Nelli Falzgraf, Bob Fuchs, Betty Grenon (compiler), Jonas Grundman, Joe Hack, Mace Hack, Clem Klaphake, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Catherine Kuper, Steve Lamphere, Terry Lassek, Sue Mattix, Arthur Morse, Jerry Mulliken, Greg Nelson, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Sandy Reinken, Neal Ratzlaff, Al Reyer, Mary Jo Rome, Kathleen Rose, Rick Schmid, Steve Schmitt, Eric Scholar, Jerry Toll, Penny Zahurones (31)

Ponca Pat Dunn, Jeff Fields, Bill Huser (compiler), Bill Morris, Jennifer Wolff (5)

Scottsbluff Bob DeLara, Kathy DeLara, Phyllis Drawbaugh, Ann Duey, Luke Hamilton, Vonie Hatch, Charlotte Herrell, Michelle Hoff, Helen Hughson, Alice Kenitz (compiler), Brad McKinney, Connie McKinney, Bonnie Schoen, Ruben Siegfried (14)

2009-10 CBC Site Data

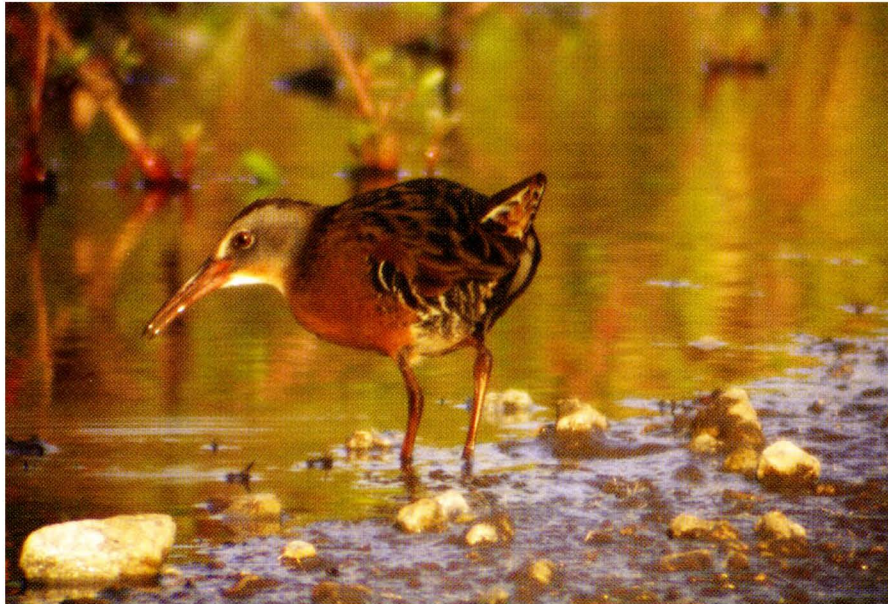
	Date	Species	Individuals	Observers	Low Temp (° F)	High Temp (° F)	Sky	Precipitation
Beaver Valley	18 Dec	36	1,424	7	32	45	cloudy	none
Branched Oak/Seward	17 Dec	61	9,117	16	16	31	pt cloudy	none
Calamus-Loup	2 Jan	59	8,274	8	-10	-4	cloudy	none
Crawford	2 Jan	32	2,203	4	17	31	pt cloudy	none
DeSoto-Boyer	30 Dec	51	4,984	12	27	28	cloudy	lt snow am
Grand Island	19 Dec	55	13,566	16	26	30	N/A	none
Harrison	1 Jan	24	528	2	1	22	cloudy	none
Lake McConaughy	2 Jan	78	8,542	13	10	21	cloudy	lt snow
Lincoln	19 Dec	64	14,996	32	23	26	cloudy	none
Norfolk	19 Dec	59	7,286	9	17	30	fog/cloudy	none
North Platte	19 Dec	59	52,197	14	13	38	clear	none
Omaha	19 Dec	68	10,652	31	19	23	cloudy	none
Ponca S.P.	2 Jan	40	1,941	5	-22	-1	cloudy	none
Scottsbluff	19 Dec	51	23,340	14	18	41	cloudy	none
Total		116	159,050	183	13	26		



Whip-poor-will eggs
(top), adult on nest
(bottom), Ponca S. P.,
Dixon Co.,
16 May 2009.
Photos by
Josh Samuelson.



Female Wilson's
Phalarope in
breeding plumage,
SE of Broken Bow,
Custer Co.,
26 April 2009.
Photo by
Tim Hajda.



Virginia Rail, Tamora Basin WPA, Seward Co., 26 Sept 2008. Photo by Joe Gubanyi.

Snow Bunting, Pawnee Lake, Lancaster Co., 7 Oct 2009. Photo by Paul Dunbar.



Adult and fledged Woodcock, Walnut Creek Lake, Sarpy Co., 8 May 2010. Photo by Clem Klaphake.



First year male Summer Tanager on niger seed feeder at Fairmont, Fillmore Co., 2 April 2009. Photo by Juanita Rice.

