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## 1986 CHRISTMAS COUNT

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1986 CHRISTMAS COUNT

One hundred nine species are reported in this year's Christmas Count, eight more than last year. One species was reported present during the count week but not reported on any count, compared to two last year. Calmus-Loup made its first report this year, bringing to eleven the number of localities reporting. Fourteen species were reported on all counts; the comparable figure for last year was also fourteen. The total individual count this year was 279,291, compared to 124,642 last year and 345,092 the year before. The Snow Goose count at DeSoto NWR and Red-winged Blackbirds and Starlings at Omaha account for most of the increase over last year. The Red-winged Blackbird count in Omaha in 1984 was 255,806, which was responsible for most of the high count in 1984. The columns are arranged in an approximate west (left) to east (right) order, with the northern most 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 are underlined in the table, to indicate high counts; counts reported as low are overlined. Sightings reported as species" are not included in the count of species reported if any of that group were reported. An \* indicates a comment in the text.

Beaver Valley, center NW corner of Sec. 5, T21N, R7W, 1.5 miles S. and 4 miles 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 2%, coniferous woods 1%, shelterbelts 1%; 18 Dec.; 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM; temp. 16 - 48° F.; wind S-SW 5 - 10 mph.; no snow; still water partly open, moving water open; clear skies all day. 6 observers afield in 1-2 parties, none at feeders. Total 11 party-hours, 75 party-miles; 8 hrs and 10 miles on foot, 3 hrs and 65 miles by car. Harlow Butcher, Mitzi Fox, John Manning, Wayne Mollhoff (compiler), David Stage, Duane Wolff.

Calmus-Loup, center at NW corner Sec. 35, T22N, R17W, 5 miles N. and 6 miles E. of Taylor. Taylor and Burwell lie on the SW and SE edges of the circle, respectively, which includes the entire lake behind the new Calmus River dam. Elevation around 2100 to 2350 ft.; 3 Jan.; 8:45 AM to 4:45 PM; temp. 18 - 46° F.; wind NW 5 - 10 mph.; no snow; still water partly open, moving water open; clear skies all day. 1 observer in 1 party, none at feeders; total 8 party-hours, 97 party-miles, 7 hrs and 95 miles by car, 1 hr. and 2 miles on foot. Wayne Mollhoff (compiler). One of the Red-tails was a medium dark Harlan's; the Towhees were indicated as the spotted type.

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%; 20 Dec.; 7:20 AM to 4:30 PM; temp. 26 - 32° F.; wind NW 25-30 mph; .5 inches of snow; still water partly frozen, moving water open; AM cloudy, PM partly cloudy. 29 observers in field in 7 parties, none at feeders, 1 hour and 2 miles owling; total 56 party-hours and 514.5 party-miles, 23.5 hrs. and 28.5 miles on foot, 33.5 hrs and 486 miles by car. Betty Allen, Jack Brownrigg, Ron Cisar, George Gage, Amy Galperin, James Glather, Ruth Green, Gretchen Gubalke, Thomas Hoffman, Ray Korpi, Raymond C. Korpi, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Steven Matherly, Dave Menke, Pat Miller, Jennifer Nass, Chris Rasmussen, Neal Ratzlaff, Alan Rose, B. J. Rose, Douglas Rose, David Starr, Robert Starr, Jacqueline Straub, Al Werthman, Ione Werthman, Randy Williams, Eric Volden, K. L. Drewes (compiler)

Grand Island, center NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 1, T10N, R10W, to include all of Grand Island, Cornhusker State WMA, south half of Hall Co. Airport, and Crystal Lake; elevation from 1840 to 1945 ft.; habitat coverage: woodland 50%, freshwater 30%, residential 10%, open field/cropland 10%; 3 Jan; 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM; clear and sunny; 43° F. 10 observers; total 34.5 party-hours and 439 party-miles, 6 hrs and 9 miles on foot, 28.5 hours and 430 miles by car. Dennis and Linda Grundman, Kari and Gary (compiler) Lingle, Jim Meyer, Eugene and June Miller, Byron Nilson, Gary Purdy, Scot Purdy. A pair of Mute Swans at Stuhr Museum were escapees and so not counted. The number of species observed tied the previous record.

	Scbl	N.P.	Kear	Cal.	G.I.	B.V.	Norf	Linc	DeS	Omaha	T-S
D-c Cormorant	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1</u>	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	<u>6</u>	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	-
Gr. W-f Goose	-	-	100	-	<u>113</u>	-	-	-	3	1	-
Snow Goose (all)	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	300	51525	7	9985
(blue form)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>100</u>	20610	-	-
(white form)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>200</u>	30915	7	-
(undesignated)	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9985
Canada Goose (all)	<u>933</u>	1644	10000	4	3690	-	1	<u>521</u>	1200	2	6
(large forms)	<u>933</u>	-	-	-	-	-	1	<u>521</u>	900	2	-
(small forms)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	-	-
(undesignated)	-	1644	10000	4	3690	-	-	-	-	-	6
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Am. Black Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Mallard	2571	1042	30	4600	4100	6500	H	<u>362</u>	23886	29	273
Northern Pintail	1	-	-	-	<u>7</u>	1	-	-	2	-	3
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4
European Wigeon	<u>1</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	<u>100</u>	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	1	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	6	-	2	-	-	-	6	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1</u>	9	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	23	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Goldeneye	3	-	20	17	<u>3</u>	-	-	<u>18</u>	331	13	3
Bufflehead	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Common Merganser	1	-	6	-	8	-	-	<u>262</u>	94	19	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	17	-	2
Turkey Vulture	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle (all)	2	17	8	1	4	6	-	-	104	10	2
adults	1	-	7	1	-	5	-	-	74	7	-
immature	1	-	1	-	<u>4</u>	1	-	-	30	3	-
undesignated	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Northern Harrier	5	-	-	3	5	6	-	4	1	1	-
Sharp-shinned H	-	-	-	-	<u>2</u>	-	1	1	2	1	-
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Accipiter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	1	14	3	*8	9	11	38	<u>35</u>	64	43	12
Ferruginous Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Rough-legged Hawk	3	8	2	8	5	<u>12</u>	6	H	2	1	-
Buteo sp.	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	1	-	4	2

## Nebraska Bird Review

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	Scbl	N.P.	Kear	Cal.	G.I.	B.V.	Norf	Linc	DeS	Omaha	T-S
Golden Eagle (all)	3	2	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
adult	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
immature	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
unknown	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	10	19	2	3	12	3	25	22	30	44	14
Merlin	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1</u>	-	-	-
Prairie Falcon	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
Falcon sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Hawk sp.	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-neck. Pheas	16	2	-	5	3	58	59	19	68	11	21
Gr. Prairie-Chick.	-	-	-	-	-	73	40	-	-	-	-
Sharp-tail. Grouse	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	<u>48</u>	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	31	27
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	15	-	265	7	33	10	-
American Coot	-	-	2	-	<u>6</u>	-	-	<u>2</u>	44	-	10
Sandhill Crane	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	H	-	-	-
Common Snipe	H	-	-	-	<u>2</u>	4	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	<u>58</u>	-	-	-
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>9</u>	-	-	-
Gull sp.	-	365	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Rock Dove	71	10	77	3	216	23	714	179	370	352	200
Mourning Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	172	3	1	-
E. Screech-Owl	1	-	-	2	1	1	2	15	5	16	5
Great Horned Owl	2	3	4	1	5	4	31	20	6	9	1
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	15	3	-	-
Owl sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	4	4	2	1	4	-	2	8	2	3	-
Red-bell. Woodp.	-	-	1	-	-	-	14	9	81	56	17
Yellow-bell. Saps.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-
Downy Woodpecker	4	8	6	3	11	11	82	58	144	169	12
Hairy Woodpecker	3	1	2	-	4	1	21	9	12	12	5
No. Flicker (all)	20	5	6	4	18	2	68	<u>12</u>	174	34	9
(Yellow-shafted)	2	-	-	4	-	1	68	12	172	34	-
(Red-shafted)	18	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-
(undesignated)	-	5	6	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	9
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1</u>	-
Horned Lark	72	-	-	7	-	1	3	H	11	9	-
Blue Jay	26	2	3	5	17	4	130	267	143	123	95
Pinyon Jay	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-bill. Magpie	60	5	3	9	1	4	50	-	-	-	-

	Scbl	N.P.	Kear	Cal.	G.I.	B.V.	Norf	Linc	DeS	Omaha	T-S
American Crow	15	15	3000	52	86	33	347	269	119	216	70
Black-cap. Chick.	19	12	100	25	<u>80</u>	21	368	<u>414</u>	362	622	137
Tufted Titmouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	24	4
Red-br. Nuthatch	3	2	9	-	4	-	4	8	1	-	2
White-br. Nuthatch	-	3	8	2	7	12	99	<u>68</u>	78	167	15
Brown Creeper	-	-	2	-	-	2	11	27	7	20	5
Carolina Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	-
Gold.-crown. King	1	-	12	3	<u>14</u>	5	18	49	9	18	2
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1</u>	3	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	10	5
Townsend's Solit.	8	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
American Robin	16	142	2	-	19	-	5	<u>4</u>	17	3	5
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	1	-	-	-	-	2	H	3	1	2	35
Northern Shrike	4	2	-	-	1	1	7	3	-	1	1
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	<u>2</u>	-	-	-	-	-	1
European Starling	252	644	80	13	<u>1085</u>	154	930	7979	1927	<u>21859</u>	441
Northern Cardinal	-	2	9	2	16	5	29	103	142	318	99
Rufous-sided T.	-	-	-	*2	1	-	-	*2	-	-	1
Am, Tree Sparrow	39	41	11	81	159	64	950	525	786	202	144
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Lark Sparrow	<u>1</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	10	12	8	4
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
White-throated Sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
White-crowned Sp.	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	1	-
Harris' Sparrow	H	2	-	1	34	9	105	82	15	1	18
Dark-eyed J. (all)	128	27	40	30	124	33	668	684	861	641	530
(slate-colored)	-	-	-	30	124	18	668	247	861	636	-
(Oregon)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	5	-
(undesignated)	128	27	40	-	124	14	-	432	-	-	530
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Red-wing. Blackb.	359	556	-	84	28	104	404	339	1231	<u>77698</u>	-
Western Meadowlark	12	1	2	-	9	-	H	-	-	1	-
Meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	1	8	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	8	-	99	-	9	-	62	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	<u>283</u>	-	-	-
Gr.-tail. Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	H	-	-	-
Common Grackle	1	3	-	-	-	-	8	28	5	62	-
Brown-headed Cow.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	2	-	-
Blackbird sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	50	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	-	10	-	-	-	H	5	-	3	-

	Scbl	N.P.	Kear	Cal.	G.I.	B.V.	Norf	Linc	DeS	Omaha	T-S
House Finch	94	50	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	97	39	17	10	19	-	15	89	10	79	68
Am. Goldfinch	12	140	20	85	<u>171</u>	61	121	219	164	147	55
Evening Grosbeak	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	383	535	275	38	607	208	4078	2941	2038	2106	766
Species reported	51	39	41	36	54	40	46	65	72	58	47
present	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-
Total individ.	5459	5378	13939	5127	10758	7551	9763	16649	86242	105303	13122

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%; 27 Dec; 8:15 AM to 5:15 PM; temp. 25 - 47° F.; wind SW 5 - 10 mph to calm; clear day with bright blue skies. 17 observers plus 4 at feeders, mileage and time not given. John and Margaret Bliese, George (compiler) and Marian Brown, Laurie Brown, Bill and Nancy Dunn, Dan Dunn, Suren Fernando, Becky Green, Adam Green, Eileen Grimm, Glenn Haselbarth, Alice Heckman, Joanna Hochfelder, Ken and Bev Kimball, Vernelle Pettijohn, Eileen Paine, Alice Rumery, Joan Terrell. Mr. Brown commented that the next day the Browns and Mrs. Paine observed 56 Eagles at Harlan Dam.

Lincoln, center South Coddington and West A Street, to include Pioneers Park, about 8 miles of Wilderness Park, Lagoon Park, Yankee Lake and Conestoga Lake areas, eastern half of Pawnee Lake, and Wyuka Cemetery; elevation 1000 to 1300 ft.; habitat coverage: deciduous creek bottoms 40%, rural farmland 25%, coniferous woods 15%, residential and cemeteries 10%, lakes 5%, city landfill 5%; 21 Dec; 4:50 AM to 5:40 PM; temp. 30 to 39° F.; wind calm; 0-2 inches of snow; still water partly open, moving water open; AM foggy, PM clear. 30 observers afield in 12-13 parties, plus 13 at feeders, 33 hrs at feeders, 5.2 hrs and 38 miles owling; total 93.3 party-hours and 433 party-miles, 67.8 hrs and 67 miles on ft., 25.5 hrs and 366 miles by car. George Alexander, Irene Alexander, LeVerne Bissell, Ann Bleed, Naomi Brill, Jan Burch, Helen Campbell, Cindy Cochran, David Cochran, Larry Eineman, Jed Freidrichsen, Pat Friedrichsen, William Garthright, Daryl and Margaret Giblin (compilers), Everett Gross, Mildred Gross, Ellen Harrington, Jeanette Helder, Karla Kaufman, Paul Kaufman, James McClelland, Rosalind Morris, Mabel Ott, Rose Pulec, Hazel Scheiber, Donald Showen, William Smith, Frances Taylor, Lyle Vannier, Angela Williams, Donald Williams. The Towhees were indicated as the spotted type. Dr. Giblin commented: The calm wind was very unusual. The area lakes had not been frozen over up to the time of the count. (And were still partly open as he wrote.) As a result, we recorded an unusual number of water-related species and a larger than usual numbers of individuals for the regular water-related species. This is the first time since the 1971 Count that we have been that fortunate. The wild food crop this year appears to be good to excellent. However, the numbers of resident open-country birds are still depressed, probably due to the very severe winter three years ago. A Mute Swan has been seen during the period, including on count day, but was not counted because of doubts of its wild origin. A White Pelican was seen regularly up to a few days before the count period. An albino buteo, probably a Red-tailed Hawk, was seen during the count period.

Norfolk, intersection of US 275 (business route) and US 81, 13th St. and Norfolk Avenue; elevation 1500 to 1600 ft.; habitat coverage: river bottom timber and shelterbelts 45%, farmsteads and farmlands 35% residential 15%, marshlands and springs 5%; 20 Dec; 4 AM to 6 PM, temperature and wind not given; .5 inches of snow; still water frozen, moving water partly open; AM partly clear, light fog, PM cloudy. 38 observers afield in 6-13 parties, 4 at feeders, 12 hrs at feeders, 1.5 hrs and 16 miles owling; total 71.75 party-hours and

318.5 party-miles, 30.25 hrs and 33.5 miles on foot, 41 hrs and 285 miles by car. Joyce Borgelt, Ed Brogie, Ellen Brogie, Mark Brogie, Marian Burleigh, Isolde Cutshall, Roger Cutshall, Ara Jane Dunlap, Mike Erickson, Robert Freiberg, Don Kahler, Norma Jensen, John Manning, Scott Marquardt, Wayne Mollhoff, John Lueshen, Willeta Lueshen, Paul Pearson, Dan Nielsen, Scott Sherry, David Stage, Lois Stage, Delmer Uttecht, Jan Uttecht, Phyllis Walker, Duane Wolff (compiler). Mr. Wolff commented: A late spring blizzard (April) destroyed most of the seed and fruit on our native trees, giving our winter visitors a poor food selectin. Also, an early November cold spell, and then unusually mild weather must have affected bird numbers, because there was a sharp decline in birds seen despite better coverage by counters.

North Platte. This count does not conform to the NAS rules, because they wanted to include all of Lincoln Co. 3 Jan; 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM; temp. 25 - 45° F.; wind calm; sunny. 10 observers (names not given). Wilma Wyman compiler. Mrs. Wyman commented that they couldn't get close enough to identify ducks.

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%; 27 Dec; 5:45 AM to 5:15 PM; temp. 28 - 35° F.; wind calm; no snow; still water partly open, moving water open; AM cloudy and foggy; PM cloudy. 36 observers afield in 15 parties, plus 1 at feeders, 2 hrs at feeders, 6 hrs and 28.5 miles owling; total 97 party-hours and 619.5 party-miles, 48.5 hrs and 51.5 miles on foot, 48.5 hours and 568 miles by car. James Anderson, Roger Benedict, Russell Benedict, Shelly Bonsall, Kelly Clarke, James Conway, Amy Galperin, Sue Gentes, James Glather, Alan Grennon, Betty Grennon (compiler), Mary Harberg, Thomas Hoffman, Clem Klaphake, R. C. Korpi, Ray Korpi, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Art Leach, Marian Leach, Marc Lund, Ralph Morocco, Jenifer Nass, Wanda Neaderhiser, Becky Otto, Bill Otto, Kirk Payne, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Neal Ratzlaff, Bob Starr, Bob Steinauer, Dave Thomas, Jerry Toll, John Weber, Marlene Weber, Barb Wilson.

Scottsbluff, center bridge over North Platte River at S. Broadway, to include Scottsbluff and Gering; elevation 3810 to 5030 ft.; 20 Dec; 7 AM to 4 PM; temp. 17 to 46° F.; wind W-NW 5-10 mph; a few isolated patches of snow; still water partly open, moving water open; AM partly cloudy, PM partly cloudy, rain. 6 observers afield in 2-3 parties, plus 3 at feeders, 5 hrs at feeders, no owling. Total 16.5 party-hours, 191 party-miles, 4 hrs and 4.5 miles on foot, 12.5 hrs and 186.5 miles by car. Lydia Bolz, Joyce Brashear, Rich Duerksen, Mary Harvey, Alice Kenitz (compiler), Lee Kenitz, Bob Larkin, Lynne Vacanti, Nora Mae Vance. Mrs. Kenitz commented that the Common Grackle seemed to be injured - apparently could not fly, but just hopped around.

Tristate, center Mile 556 on the Missouri River, to include Nebraska City and the Missouri River bottoms and farmlands in Nebraska, Waubesa 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%; 20 Dec; time not given; temp. 22 - 38° F.; wind calm; no snow; cloudy all day. 7 observers afield in 2 parties; total 19.75 party-hours, plus .75 hrs owling, 207.5 party-miles, 2.5 on foot and 205 by car. Tanya Bray, Ione Getscher, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Ross Silcock (compiler), Jerry Toll, Barbara Wilson.