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1993 Nebraska Christmas Bird Count

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NEBRASKA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR 1993

The 1993 Nebraska Christmas Bird Counts are shown in the table in a west (left) to east (right) order, but the narrative accounts are in alphabetical order. In the table those numbers which were underlined (to emphasize the unusual number) in the reports are shown in **bold**, and the species for which the names were underlined (to emphasize that the species was unusual) in the report are marked *

before the number in the particular column. For both Eagles the total number (given first) is broken down by age immediately afterwards, and these numbers are shown in *italics* to indicate that, to avoid duplication, those numbers should not be included in adding the total individuals. Other species, such as Snow Goose, Flicker, and Junco, have more than one line, but in those cases the figures are independent of each other. "Species" entries, such as for hawks or gulls, were not included in the number of species reported, except that "meadowlark sp." was used if there was no specific form reported. Species seen in the count circle during count week, but not seen on count day, are marked H.

Beaver Valley, centered 4 miles west and 1.5 miles south of Petersburg, Boone Co., 22 December, 6:45 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., temp. 6° to 21° F., wind NW 10 to 20 mph, no snow cover, still water partly frozen, moving water open, A.M. and P.M. clear; 12 observers in 1 to 3 parties; half an hour and 1 mile owling; total of 17 party-hours and 125 party-miles: 13 hours and 12 miles on foot, 4 hours and 113 miles by car. Harlan Butcher, Tom Dickey, Mitzi Fox, David Heidt, Wayne J. Mollhoff (compiler), Don and Colleen Noecker, Neal Pohlman, Randy and John Porter, Pat Rolf, and Duane Wolff, participants.

	Scotts Bluff	Lake Mac	North Platte	Kear- ney	Grand Island	Beaver Valley	Lin- coln	Omaha
Common Loon		H						
Horned Grebe		1						
Western Grebe		26						
Great Blue Heron	2	3		1	2	1	3	
Trumpeter Swan		H						
Snow Goose (blue)				2				
Snow Goose		1		4			1	765
Canada Goose	4,004	2,710	2,500	4,032	5,661		1,780	545
Wood Duck				1			1	
Green-winged Teal	58	15				2		16
Am. Black Duck						* 1		
Mallard	4,046	971	23	24	9,926	6,125	527	1,020
Northern Pintail	2					2	2	2
Northern Shoveler		1						* 1
Gadwall		27						1
American Wigeon	3	2			3	H		
Canvasback		1						1
Redhead							1	1
Ring-necked Duck		4						
Greater Scaup		10						
Lesser Scaup		2						20
Common Goldeneye	3	404		14	7		85	321
Bufflehead		59						
Hooded Merganser		2						1
Common Merganser		2,534					13	139
Red-br. Merganser		1						
Osprey					* 1			
Bald Eagle	9	22	24	3	19	4		23
<i>adult</i>	3	16			11	4		19
<i>immature</i>	6	6			8			4
<i>unknown</i>			24	3				
Northern Harrier	1	17	4	5	11	2	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3		1	1	2		3	1
Cooper's Hawk		2	1					
Red-tailed Hawk	6	17	7	note 6	28	6	45	47
Ferruginous Hawk		1	2					
Rough-legged Hawk	8	8		1	17	5	3	
hawk (<i>Buteo</i>) sp.							8	2
Golden Eagle		1				2		
<i>adult</i>						2		
<i>immature</i>		1						
American Kestrel	12	9	16	4	14	2	16	20
Merlin	1	1		1	1	2	1	
Prairie Falcon	1				1			

	Scotts Bluff	Lake Mac	North Platte	Kear- ney	Grand Island	Beaver Valley	Lin- coln	Omaha
Ring-necked Pheas.	19	27	10	2	56	26	24	1
Gr Prairie-Chicken		6				1		
Sharp-tail. Grouse		3	14					
Wild Turkey	65			2	1		1	9
N. Bobwhite					22	3	37	
American Coot		8					1	
Killdeer		4						
Gr. Yellowlegs		* 1						
Common Snipe	3	1			3	1		
Franklin's Gull		* 1						
Ring-billed Gull		473	1				169	125
California Gull		72						
Herring Gull		36					8	4
gull sp.								5
Rock Dove	136	19	13	20	73	2	480	88
Mourning Dove		2					10	2
E. Screech-Owl		1			9		12	7
Great Horned Owl	1	3	2		7	7	21	2
Barred Owl							4	
Long-eared Owl							15	
Short-eared Owl					2			
Belted Kingfisher	3	4	1	2	4		9	4
Red-headed Woodp.							2	H
Red-bellied Woodp.		1	3	3	7	2	34	70
Yel-bell. Sapsucker			1				3	1
Downy Woodpecker	8	8	8	6	33		68	64
Hairy Woodpecker		3	2	4	2	10	17	11
N. (Yel. sh.) Flicker				3		20	23	91
N. (Yel. x Red) Fl.	7							
N. (Red Sh.) Flicker	11					2	2	
Northern Flicker	16	31	31	12	55		31	
Horned Lark	522	1,039	255	653	64	12	97	
Blue Jay	37	6	8	13	25	10	241	49
Clark's Nutcracker	note							
Black-bill. Magpie	38	61	4	4	10	H		
American Crow	35	2	81	174	413	247	549	230
Bl.-cap. Chickadee	53	17	34	95	148	33	308	318
Tufted Titmouse								28
Red-br. Nuthatch	3		3	15	4		48	8
Wh.-breast. Nuthatch		2	8	7	21	14	58	74
Brown Creeper		1			4		22	8
Carolina Wren								4
Marsh Wren		4						
Golden-cr. Kinglet	3	2		11	51	15	43	9
Ruby-cr. Kinglet				1				* 1
Eastern Bluebird		22	29					16
Mountain Bluebird		27	26					
Townsend's Solit.	2	14						
Hermit Thrush								* 1
American Robin	12	911	114	133	154	3	275	199
N. Mockingbird		H			1			
Brown Thrasher							1	
Cedar Waxwing		20	5	50	1		104	169
Northern Shrike	4	4	4			4		
Loggerhead Shrike	2				4		1	* 1
European Starling	1,840	1,822	1,037	618	1,781	460	2,124	7,505
Nashville Warbler								* H
Summer Tanager								* 1
Northern Cardinal	* 1	3	6	11	32	1	142	131
Rufous-sid. Towhee					2			

	Scotts Bluff	Lake Mac	North Platte	Kearney	Grand Island	Beaver Valley	Lincoln	Omaha
Am. Tree Sparrow	210	283	133	171	335	169	601	70
Field Sparrow					1		1	
Song Sparrow	5	9			3		2	1
White-th. Sparrow							12	1
White-crowned Sp.	60	1	3		3		1	1
Harris' Sparrow		1			95		61	1
Dark-e. (Sl.) Junco	30						65	226
Dark-e. (Or.) Junco	34						9	
Dark-eyed Junco	162	212	92	165	144	78	494	
Lapland Longspur		9		85		1		
Snow Bunting							2	
Red-w. Blackbird	1,635	2				67	54	6,000
Western Meadowlark	12			17	67		3	
meadowlark sp.		32					73	6
Yellow-head. Blackb.		* 1						* 4
Rusty Blackbird				2		23	1	
Brewer's Blackb.						4		
Gr-tailed Grackle					* 10			* 61
Common Grackle					1	1		201
Brown-headed Cowb. blackbird sp.						10		2
Purple Finch				1	6		25	
Cassin's Finch		* 1				4	35	12
House Finch	123	37	79	137	48		187	13
Common Redpoll		15						
Pine Siskin	137	105	41	2			139	12
Am. Goldfinch	153	365	239	9	37	11	225	128
House Sparrow	409	228	130	184	88	172	1,169	530
Total Species	46	80	41	44	56	42	64	67
"species" only							2	2
H (Here, not seen)		3				2		2
Total Individuals	13,950	12,814	4,995	6,711	19,520	7,567	10,633	19,432

Grand Island, 18 December, 5 A.M. to 6 P.M., temp. 28° to 38° F., wind NW 10 to 15 mph., 50% snow cover, 99% open water, A.M. and P.M. clear; 14 observers in 6 parties: 6 hours owling, 4.5 miles by foot, 57 by car; total of 39.5 party-hours, and 299 party-miles; 18 hours and 21 miles by foot, 21.5 hours and 278 miles by car. Colleen Babcock, Faye and Tom Conlon, Anne and Ron Kruse, Gary Lingle (compiler), Janis Mathis, Connie McCartney, Jim Meyer, Scott Purdy, Helen Seim, Vern Throop, Ericka Wilson, and Eric Volden, participants.

Kearney, centered two miles west of the Kearney bridge, and the west edge half a mile west of the Odessa bridge, to include parts of Buffalo, Kearney, and Phelps counties, 18 December, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., temp. 20° to 35° F., wind west at 15 mph., snow cover 1 inch, on the ground, a little ice in the river and the sand pits were open, A.M. and P.M. clear; 15 observers in 1 - 2 parties and 6 at feeders; 6 hours at feeders, total of 21 party-hours and 119 party-miles: 3 hours and 4 miles by foot and 12 hours and 115 miles by car. George and Mariann Brown, Bonnie Bernholtz, Bill Dunn, Robin Harding (compiler), Wes Kellogg, Bev Kimball, Lanny Randolph, Alice Rumery, Norma and Ward Schrack, Margaret Triplett, and Mark Urwiller, participants. Five of the Red-tailed Hawks were listed as light phase, one as dark phase.

Lake McConaughy, centered at north end of Ogallala Beach Recreation Area, Gate 20, along south side of Lake McConaughy, including Lemoyne, Keystone, and Ogallala. 17 December, 6:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., temp. 22° to 30° F., wind NW 10 to 30 mph, 4" snow cover, still water open, moving water open, A.M. clear, P.M. partly cloudy; 6 observers in 3 to 4 parties; none at feeders, 0.5 hours and 5 miles owling, total of 38 party-hours and 309.5 party-miles: 15.5 hours and 15.5 miles on foot, 22.5 hours and 294 miles by car. Stephen J. Dinsmore (compiler), Amy Goedert, Susan B. Grove, Dorothy J. Rosche, Richard C. Rosche, and W. Ross Silcock, participants.

Lincoln, 19 December, 3:30 A.M. to 6:15 P.M., temp. 22° to 37° F., wind SW 0 - 15 mph, 0 - 2" snow cover, plus drifts, still water partly open, moving water open, A.M. clear, P.M. cloudy; 28 observers in 15 parties, 11 at feeders, 20.75 hours at feeders; 5 hours and 40 miles owling, total party-hours 96.75 and party-miles 433.3; 72.25 hours and 79.3 miles on foot, 24.5 hours and 354 miles by car. Irene Alexander, Russ Benedict, Linda Brown, Carol Closter, Cindy Cochran, Jan DeGarmo, Kevin DeGarmo, Larry Einemann, Peg Fletcher, Bill Garthright, Daryl and Margaret Giblin (compilers, with Larry Einemann), Carolyn Hall, Nancy Hall, Betsy Hancock, Norma Johnson-Mueller, Maxine Keller, Tim Knott, Virginia Knott, Linda Maslowski, Rosalind Morris, Ken Reitan, Hazel Scheiber, Don Showen, Tim Standish, Alyssa Storey, John Sullivan, Clare Sward, Lyle Vannier, Barbara Voeltz, Dick Voeltz, Jerry Wiggle, Angela Williams, Don Williams, and Steve Winter, participants.

Mr. Giblin commented: This was our worst production relative to effort in many years. Lincoln received nearly three feet (!) of rain this summer. In July there was a stretch of 10 consecutive nights of heavy storming. Later that same month there was a run of 6 nights of even heavier storming. During this period, Lincoln received its strongest windstorm in decades, winds exceeding 100 mph, which did great damage to the city trees. As a consequence, there was poor nesting success, particularly for ground-nesting birds. In addition, the plants that provide the winter wild-food crop did not set seed because of the extremely wet conditions, so the wild-food crop is the worst I have seen in the 20+ years I have been involved with the Lincoln CBC. A further problem is that the low, sheltered areas along streams, ravines, and draws were heavily flooded this fall (again!) and appear to have been swept clean. To further cut wintering bird populations, there was an early and cold, wet fall, in fact, the third coldest on record, with the earliest hard freeze ever recorded here. Around Thanksgiving time winter hit with snow and cold to finish driving out most birds. However, the lakes did not completely freeze over during this time, and have thawed out since. Some habitat within the city, such as the University campuses, which have many environmental plantings, hold species throughout the winter that are rare in the countryside. Such are the White-throated Sparrows, which are common at the University and nowhere else. The Field Sparrow also falls in this category.

The Western Meadowlarks were identified on the basis of songs. All non-singing meadowlarks were reported as meadowlark sp.

North Platte, (this count includes all of Lincoln Co.), 8 January, about 32° F., clear, 3 cars with 7 observers. Robert Bailey, Esther Cunningham, Harold Cunningham (compiler), Marie Eavens, Irma Grill, Greg Hoover, and Skip Raney, participants.

Omaha, centered at Offutt AFB Lake, Bellevue, 18 December, 5:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., temp. 25° to 38° F., wind NW 5 to 15 mph., no snow cover, still water partly open, moving water open, A.M. and P.M. cloudy; 23 observers in 8 parties; 2 at feeders, 4 hours at feeders; 4.25 hours and 41 miles owling; total of 54.5 party-hours and 387.5 party-miles: 18.75 hours and 20.5 miles on foot, 35.75 hours and 367 miles by car. Betty Allen, Duane Bright, Mani Bunnimit, Lisa Currier, Sue Gentes, Betty Grenon (compiler), Essie Grill, Sam Grill, Gail Ireland, Clem Klaphake, Damon Klaphake, Eric Klaphake, Sandy Kovanda, Steve Lamphere, Sue Lobmeyer, Shirley Noar, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Dick Rasmussen, Neal Ratzlaff, Kathleen Rose, Eric Scholar, Jerry Toll, participants.

Scottsbluff, centered at Visitors' Center, Scotts Bluff National Monument, 18 December, 7:30 A.M. to 4:15 P.M., temp. 1° to 32° F., wind variable to 10 mph., snow cover 0 to 4 inches, still water partly frozen, moving water open, A.M. and P.M. clear; 12 observers in 1 to 4 parties: none at feeders, no owling, total of 21.5 party-hours and 229 party-miles: 2.75 hours and 1.75 miles on foot, 18.75 hours and 227.25 miles by car. Sue Amiotte, Lucile Bigelow, Helen Hughson, Alice Kenitz (compiler), Jude Larkin, Robert Larkin, Larry Malone, Ed Newbury, Loni Schlothauer, Sam Schlothauer, Edna Claire Thomas, and Nora Mae Vance, participants.

Mrs. Kenitz commented: Two Clark's Nutcrackers are near Lake Minatare. Unfortunately, the area is not in our Christmas Count circle, so we could not include them. The people who have been feeding a pair of Cardinals for about two years have now seen two males and a female, so we hope that is a good sign for that species in our area.