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NEBRASKA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR 1997 STATEWIDE SUMMARY

The official count period for the 98th National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird

Count was from December 19, 1997, to January 4, 1998. Data were reported from ten locations throughout Nebraska (Fig. 1). Table 1 gives numeric data from the bird counts, with locations listed in alphabetical order. Unusual counts that were noted by the participants are in bold print. For counts of separate forms or subspecies, brackets are used to indicate that the entry is a part of the overall count given for the species. Counts also

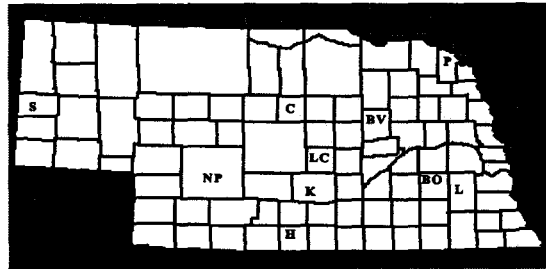


Figure 1: Locations of ten Nebraska sites participating in the 1997 Christmas Bird Count

are given for identifications above the species level, such as "hawk sp." These data include only those birds *not definitively* identified at the species level. Such identifications do not contribute to the tallies of species and individuals from each site. Field notes, identifications made during the count period, but not on the count day, and lists of participants are given in the text below.

Beaver Valley (BV)

Site and Party Data: Boone Co.; center 4 mi W and 1.5 mi S of Petersburg; NW corner of Sec. 5, T21N, R7W; 41° 50' N 98° 10' W. 19 Dec., 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Temp. 30 to 40 °F; wind NW at 5 to 15 mph; partly cloudy; surface of still (lentic) water frozen, flowing (lotic) water not ice-covered; no snow cover. In field, five observers in two parties; one observer at feeders. Total party-hours 11; 67 party-miles. 3 h and 3 mi on foot; 5 h and 64 mi by car; 0 h owling.

Table 1: 1997 Christmas Bird Counts for Ten Sites in Nebraska.

Species	Beaver Valley	Calamus-Loup	Branched Oak-Seward	Harlan County	Kearney	Lincoln	Loup City	North Platte	Ponca State Park	Scottsbluff
Pied-billed Grebe								2		
Eared Grebe					1			2		
American White Pelican				11						
Double-crested Cormorant			10	19						
Great Blue Heron (blue form)	1		2	2	1	1				1
Greater White-fronted Goose										
Snow Goose			18	1	2	6				
blue form			[7]			[3]				
white form			[11]			[3]				
Canada Goose		1825	3401	3603	2500	1085	800	4642		4845
Wood Duck				1						1
Green-winged Teal		11	31	18	1		1			
Mallard	3600	10,094	30,672	14,565	2071	780	2100	16		2710
Northern Pintail		40	18	6		2				2
Northern Shoveler		1		3	6					
Gadwall			6	7	9					9
American Wigeon			15	4						
Lesser Scaup			1	5						
Common Goldeneye		13	174	54	10	22		62	2	71
Bufflehead			1							
Hooded Merganser			1	5						
Common Merganser			302	48,000		40			2	
Red-breasted Merganser				1						

Table 1 (continued): 1997 Christmas Bird Counts for Ten Sites in Nebraska.

Species	Beaver Valley	Calamus-Loup	Branched Oak-Seward	Harlan County	Kearney	Lincoln	Loup City	North Platte	Ponca State Park	Scottsbluff
Wild Turkey		62			103					76
Northern Bobwhite	1		21		25	2		12		
Virginia Rail	1									
American Coot				27	4					
Killdeer						1				
Common Snipe	2	1								1
Ring-billed Gull			328	2067	1	28				1
Herring Gull			50	394	1	9		90		
Thayer's Gull				1						
Lesser Black-backed Gull			1							
Glaucous Gull		1		3						
gull, sp.			[60]							
Rock Dove	2	9	55	27	30	289	11	110	16	103
Mourning Dove			4			139				
Eastern Screech-Owl			6	12	1	1	2			
Great Horned Owl	3	2	22	14	3	7	1		1	
Barred Owl			1							
Long-eared Owl			1							
owl, sp.						[2]				
Belted Kingfisher	1	4	6	3	1	6	1			3
Red-headed Woodpecker						1				
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	2	37	20	8	14		3	2	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1								

Table 1 (continued): 1997 Christmas Bird Counts for Ten Sites in Nebraska.

Species	Beaver Valley	Calamus-Loup	Branched Oak-Seward	Harlan County	Kearney	Lincoln	Loup City	North Platte	Ponca State Park	Scottsbluff
Downy Woodpecker	8	24	78	39	9	72	6	3	4	6
Hairy Woodpecker	2	3	23	5	1	11	2		1	1
Northern Flicker	4	41	62	16	14	6	3	12		17
yellow shafted	[4]		[35]	[9]		[4]	[2]			[2]
red shafted				[2]			[1]			[1]
unspecified			[27]	[5]		[2]				[14]
Horned Lark	30		50	97	20					147
Blue Jay		8	119	13	44	187	3	6		36
Black-billed Magpie	5	1	2	27	14		3	2		44
American Crow	85	1004	799	520	5	548	25	62	260	47
Black-capped Chickadee	19	70	189	164	14	167	6	6	11	48
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	5	12	4	21	23		3		1
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	3	59	33	10	42	4	2	1	
Brown Creeper			15	3		20				
Carolina Wren						2				
Golden-crowned Kinglet		2				10				
Eastern Bluebird			25	15					5	
Mountain Bluebird								60		
Townsend's Solitaire								1	1	3
Hermit Thrush			1							
American Robin	47	3598	461	604	68	35	61	908	2	6
Northern Mockingbird			1							
Cedar Waxwing	51	102	193	85		38		4	25	

Table 1 (continued): 1997 Christmas Bird Counts for Ten Sites in Nebraska.

Species	Beaver Valley	Calamus-Loup	Branched Oak-Seward	Harlan County	Kearney	Lincoln	Loup City	North Platte	Ponca State Park	Scottsbluff
Northern Shrike		7	4	1	1		2	4		1
Loggerhead Shrike						1				
European Starling	60	1389	2722	2390	46	1176	400	607	20	946
Yellow-rumped Warbler		2								
Northern Cardinal		5	79	34	30	274		5		
Eastern Towhee			1							
Spotted Towhee				1	1	4				
American Tree Sparrow	22	413	613	536	217	205	91	70	22	21
Chipping Sparrow						1				
Song Sparrow		1	17	11	1	2	3			2
White-throated Sparrow						14				
White-crowned Sparrow		1		114	1	4				15
black-lored				[92]						
gray-lored				[22]						
Harris' Sparrow			11	73	2	49		2		
sparrow, sp.			[23]							[40]
Dark-eyed Junco	20	224	875	272	275	649	2	52	15	32
slate-colored	[18]		[120]	[139]		[2]				[2]
white-winged										
Oregon	[2]		[2]	[4]		[11]				[9]
pink-sided				[6]						
unspecified			[753]	[120]		[636]				[21]
Lapland Longspur				58						

Table 1 (continued): 1997 Christmas Bird Counts for Ten Sites in Nebraska.

Species	Beaver Valley	Calamus-Loup	Branched Oak-Seward	Harlan County	Kearney	Lincoln	Loup City	North Platte	Ponca State Park	Scottsbluff
Red-winged Blackbird	38	131	89			95	27	18		5838
Western Meadowlark			2					30		1
meadowlark, sp.			[6]							
Rusty Blackbird				27						
Common Grackle	3		1		2	1		13		
Brown-headed Cowbird				1						
Purple Finch			37							
House Finch	24	9	147	121	74	131		74		105
Red Crossbill										2
White-winged Crossbill						2				
Pine Siskin			8	6	26	67	2	16		15
American Goldfinch	2	447	206	186	177	83	10	209		113
House Sparrow	120	166	186	118	351	590	47	75	5	214
Total Number of Species	36	49	66	67	53	57	31	44	23	42
Individuals Identified to Species	4191	19912	42366	74600	6243	6995	3636	7267	407	15544

Observers: **Wayne J. Mollhoff, compiler.** Belle Esau, Mitzi Fox, Dave Heidt, Don Noecker, Duane Wolff.

Comments: Compiler highlighted counts of Great Blue Heron (1), Merlin (1), and Virginia Rail (1).

Branched Oak (BO)

Site and Party Data: Seward Co.; center 0.5 mi SE of Garland; middle of Sec. 9, T11N, R4E; 40° 56' N 96° 59' W. 20 Dec., 5:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Temp. 28 to 38 °F; winds calm; clear; no snow cover; surface of still water partly open, flowing water partly ice-covered. In field, 12 observers in seven to eight parties (non-owling); six observers at feeders. Total party-hours were 66; 395.5 total party-miles; 36.25 h and 35.5 mi on foot; 29.75 h and 360 mi by car; 40 h at feeders; 4 h and 46 mi owling.

Observers: **Joseph Gubanyi, compiler.** Russ Benedict, Terri Brown, John Dinan, Larry Einemann, Erin Huebschmann, Jeff Huebschmann, Karla Kaufman, Paul Kaufman, Kevin Poague, John Sullivan, Moni Usaz.

Comments: Eastern Towhee identified by individual familiar with both Eastern and Spotted Towhees. "Mockingbird distinguished from shrikes by bill, tail length, behavior, and head patterns. It was distinguished from Townsend's Solitaire by lack of white eye ring, behavior, and white patterning in tail and wings." Counts noted by compiler include Common Grackle (1) and House Finch (147). A ruddy duck was observed during count week, but not on count day.

Calamus-Loup (C)

Site and Party Data: Loup and Garfield Cos. (primarily); center 7 mi W and 4 mi N of Burwell, NW corner of Sec. 5, T22N, R17W. Circle mostly in Loup and Garfield Counties. 27 Dec., no times given. Environmental conditions not reported. In field, ten observers in one party; total party-hours and party-miles not given.

Observers: **Norma Brockmoller, compiler.** Scott Buss, Joyce Borgelt, Robin Harding, Dave Heidt, Lanny Randolph, Jan Uttecht, Brant Wolff, Duane Wolff, Jerry Zimmerman.

Comments: None.

Harlan County (H)

Site and Party Data: Harlan Co.; center 2 mi east of Alma, center of Section 26, 40° 6' N 99° 19' W; circle including Harlan County Lake, Orleans, Republican City, and Huntley. 14 Dec. (prior to official count period designated by the National Audubon Society), no times given. Temp. 30 to 55 °F; wind SW at 5 to 15 mph; surface of water 95% open. In field, six observers; 36 total party-hours; 277 party-miles by car, 13 by foot.

Observers: **Joel Jorgensen, compiler.** Robin Harding, Jerry Jorgensen, Lanny Randolph, John Sullivan, W. Ross Silcock.

Comments: Two Greater White-fronted Goose were found during count week but not on count day.

Kearney (K)

Site and Party Data: Buffalo Co.; center 2 mi W. of Kearney; circle including Odessa Bridge to Bike Hike Bridge and roads on both sides of the Platte River. 20 Dec., 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Temp. 30 °F; overcast; wind SSE at 5 to 10 mph. In field, 11 observers; five at feeders.

Observers: **Alice Rumery, compiler.** George Brown, Marian Brown, Bill Dunn, Mark Humpert, Wes Kellogg, John Kozak, Brooke Levey, Richard Luehrs, Brian Moody, Ryne Moody, John Murphy, Lee and Delphine Sanks, Barbara Tebbel, Mark Urwiller.

Comments: None.

Lincoln (L)

Site and Party Data: Lancaster Co.; center at intersection of S. Coddington and West 'A' Streets, 40° 47' N 96° 42' W; circle including Pioneers Park, about 8 mi. in Wilderness Park, Lagoon Park, Yankee Hill Lk. and Connestoga Lk. areas, eastern half of Pawnee Lk., and Wyuka Cemetery. 3 Jan., 6:00 AM to 5:30 PM and 10:00 to 10:30 PM. Temp. 20 to 26 °F; cloudy; wind N at 26 mph; surface of water ice-covered. In field, 31 observers in 12 parties (non-owling); ten observers at feeders; 1.5 h and 8 mi owling. Total party-hours were 82; party-miles 267; 57 hours and 58 mi on foot; 44 h at feeders; 25 h and 209 mi by car.

Observers: **Linda Brown, compiler.** George Alexander, Irene Alexander, Al Brown, Terry Brown, Lynn Darling, Kevin DeGarmo, Anne DeVries, Jackie Egan, Larry Einemann, Kathryn Gabig, Eric Gregory, Larry Fletcher, Peg Fletcher, Linnea Fredrickson, Nancy Hall, Sue Helzer, Susan Herrick, Paul Johnsgard, Amelia Kren, Josef Kren, Tim Knott, Al Laukaitis, Thomas Labeledz, Marilyn McNabb, Rosalind Morris, Evan Meyer, Geri Meyer, Jeff Meyer, Chuck Norby, Kevin Poague, Ken Reitan, Dick Rhodes, Ramona Rhodes, Roger Riss, Hazel Scheiber, Anne Tacha, Billie Tacha, Martha Tacha, Laurel Teton, Moni Usasz, and Diane West.

Comments: No response to owling at Wilderness Park, although the wind had "howled." Paul and Karla Kaufman called up an Eastern Screech Owl at Pawnee Lake late in evening. White-winged Crossbills were spotted by Larry Einemann at Wyuka Cemetery. The Chipping Sparrow was spotted by Josef Kren at Helen Boosalis Park (near the dump).

Loup City (LC)

Site and Party Data: Sherman Co.; center in Loup City, NW corner of Section 13, T15N, R15W; 41° 17' N 98° 59' W. 27 Dec., 7:45 AM to 4:45 PM. Temp. 21 to 45 °F; wind NW at 0 to 20 mph; partly cloudy; surface of water not ice-covered; no snow cover. One party, one observer. In field, 2 h and 3 mi on foot; 7 h and 100 mi by car.

Observer: **Wayne J. Mollhoff, compiler.**

Comments: "One early heavy snow on 26 Oct.; otherwise, no blizzards or severe cold to account for low numbers. Count of Northern Goshawk (1) highlighted by compiler.

North Platte (NP)

Site and Party Data: Lincoln Co.; no official center given according to the rules of the National Audubon Society. 20 Dec., "all day". Temp. 33 °F; foggy to clear. Total of nine observers in four cars.

Observers: (members of the Tout Bird Club) **W. Harold Cunningham, compiler.** Ester Cunningham, Marie Evans, Greg Hoover, Beigt Somerholder, Carol Somerholder, Howard Wyman, and Wilma Wyman.

Comments: None.

Ponca State Park (P)

Site and Party Data: Dixon and Dakota Counties; center at intersection of Missouri River and border between Dixon and Dakota Counties. 3 Jan; times not reported. Temp. 16 to 19 °F; wind NW at 20-30 mph; overcast. In field, two observers in one party; total party-hours 9.75; party-miles 80.5; 9 h and 80 mi by car and on foot; 0.75 h and 0.5 mi owling.

Observers: **Bill Huser, compiler.** Richard Huser.

Comments: "Abrupt weather change with strong, cold winds kept birds 'hunkered' down [and] difficult to find or detect. Townsend's Solitaire - best bird."

Scottsbluff (S)

Site and Party Data: Scotts Bluff Co.; center at intersection of county roads P and 20, 1.75 miles SE of the Visitors' Center of Scotts Bluff National Monument; 41° 51' N 103° 39' W. Circle includes cities of Gering and Scottsbluff, Wildcat Hills Nature Center, part of Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff County Airport, and Robidoux Pass. 20 Dec; 7:15 AM to 4:00 PM. Temp.

13 to 39 °F; wind E at 5 to 12 mph; partly cloudy; surface of water not ice-covered; no snow cover. In field, 11 observers in two to three parties; zero observers at feeders; total party-hours 20; party-miles 179.5; 1.75 h and 1.25 mi on foot; 18.25 h and 178.25 mi by car.

Observers: **Alice Kenitz, compiler.** Sue Amiotte, Bob DeLara, Jennifer Gilbert, Kara Glenn, Karen Glenn, Helen Hughson, Mary Hunt, Kathy Larson, Brad McKinney, and Leona McMaster.

Comments: Counts noted by compiler include American Kestrel (20) and Red-winged Blackbird (5838).