


3-2012

2011–2012 Christmas Bird Counts

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2011-2012 Christmas Bird Counts

Fifteen counts, one more than last year, were held during the period, and a total of 139 species, 10 fewer than last year, were found. This was a count season of record totals for the state for a number of species. Factors contributing to this include the number of counts, the number of participants and the weather. More counts (15) were run than in any previous year, and several counts (Lake McConaughy in particular) had a much greater than average number of participants. The weather prior to the count period was mild, and most of the circles had unusually warm count days. The average high was 49, and Calamus-Loup recorded

the high for the state at 70 degrees. Precipitation on the day of the count was not a factor for most counts, Ames, Lake McConaughy and Ponca being the exceptions.

Counters in 7 circles found a state record total of 163 Northern Pintail. Likewise the following ducks, mostly at Lake McConaughy, were found in record numbers: Canvasback (337), Redhead (327), Ring-necked Duck (328). A new state high count of 58 Trumpeter Swans from 3 circles was tallied. The 692 Red-tailed Hawks was a new state record, besting the old record of 617 set the previous year. Lake McConaughy counters found 6007 American Coots, bringing the total on all counts to 6163, a new CBC high.

A new record for the state was also set for Belted Kingfisher (68); the previous high was 47 in 2006. Both Downy Woodpecker (657 from all 15 counts) and Hairy Woodpecker (129 from 13 of 15 counts) set record state totals. The 92 Yellow-rumped Warblers found on 7 counts more than doubled the prior high count of 42 from the previous year. Likewise the old state record of 3315 American Goldfinch set in 2001 was topped by the 3713 found this year.

Unusual birds found this year included a first-ever Dunlin (at Lake McConaughy) and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak (at Lincoln), which had been found on only one previous count (1973 in Omaha). Grand Island reported 3510 Sandhill Cranes, a species rarely reported on Christmas counts. The highest single Sandhill Crane CBC report is also from Grand Island: 5000 in 1990. Three Mew Gulls were seen at Lake McConaughy; this is the highest total and only the 4th year for this species, all since 2000. Of the 200 Snowy Owls recorded this winter in the state, 4 managed to find their way into count circles on count days. This was the highest total ever, and only the 7th year in which they have been counted.

Twelve Pinyon Jays were found at Harrison, which is the highest count since 37 in 2000 (at Crawford). In the 1970s, Pinyon Jays were found in the hundreds on CBCs. Black-billed Magpies have not yet recovered to their triple-digit counts prior to 2006; only 43 were found this year (on 7 counts). However, Black-capped Chickadee numbers are bouncing back with this year's total of 1307 (found on 14 of 15 counts), the highest since 1668 in 2002. Low count was 681 in 2007.

A few low tallies were also recorded. Only 21 Greater Prairie-Chickens (at Calamus-Loup, Lake McConaughy and North Platte) were found, the lowest total since 3 in 2001. High count in the past decade is 469 in 2009. Northern Bobwhites were even more scarce; the 13 found this year (at Calamus-Loup) is the lowest total since 7 in 1965. High total for the past decade is 239 in 2007. Ring-necked Pheasant numbers (173) were the lowest since 164 in 2006; decade high was 855 in 2009. Wild Turkeys, on the other hand, showed an all-time high of 1732, found on 13 of 15 counts.

2011-12 CBC Participants

Ames Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Clem Klaphake, Jerry Mulliken, Don Paseka (compiler), Janis Paseka, Gary Roberts (7)

Beaver Valley William Flack, Colleen Noecker, Don Noecker (compiler) (3)

Branched Oak-Seward John Carlini, Laura Dinan, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Joe Gubanyi (compiler), Joel Jorgensen, Thomas Labedz, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, John Quinn, Jessica Ripke, Shari Schwartz, Ruth Stearns, Mary Steinbeck (14)

Calamus-Loup Bob Gerten, Kathi Gerten, Robin Harding, David Heidt (compiler), Jan Johnson, Richard Johnson, Lanny Randolph, Duane Wolff (8)

Crawford Kathy DeLara, Charlotte Herrell, Bette Klaphake, Clem Klaphake (4) (Bruce Walgren, compiler)

DeSoto Elliott Bedows, Ruth Bentzinger, Ryan Evans, Jonas Grundman, Joe Hack, Mace Hack, Clem Klaphake, Jim Kovanda, Steve Lamphere, Jim Meyer, Greg Nelson, Mark Orsag, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Kathleen Pyper, Neal Ratzlaff, Sandy Reinken, Gary Roberts, Al Reyer, Phil Swanson, Jerry Toll (compiler), Steve Van Riper (22)

Grand Island Gordy Backer, Tony Curtis, Dan Glomski, Bob Hausmann, Michele Kock, Ron Kruse, Anne Kruse, Ray Kusak, Connie McCartney (compiler), Dennis Melvin, Jim Meyer, Steve Morris, Robert Pore, Patricia Smith, Vern Throop (15 + 8 feeder watchers)

Harrison Bette Klaphake, Clem Klaphake, Andrew Pierson, Maggie Vinson (4)
(Bruce Walgren, compiler)

Lake McConaughy Elaine Bachel, Mary Bomberger Brown, Stephen Dinsmore (compiler), Paul Dunbar, Keith Dyché, Luke Hamilton, Roger Hamilton, Robin Harding, Alice Heckman, Bill Huntley (local organizer), Jan Johnson, Richard Johnson, Bette Klaphake, Clem Klaphake, Ron Martin, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Patricia Pressler, Lanny Randolph, Al Reyer, Gary Roberts, Mary Sue Shoemaker, Ross Silcock, Ruth Stearns, Phil Swanson, Jerry Toll (26 + 13 feeder watchers)

Lincoln Elaine Bachel, Joel Bacon, Kelli Bacon, Bob Boyce, Anita Breckbill, Linda R. Brown (compiler), Pat Cole, Lynn Darling, Barbara J. DiBernard, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Sue Guild, Mathew Hansen, Emily Herrick, Ian Hoppe, Paula Hoppe, Julie Huddle, Paul Johnsgard, Michelle Johnson, Joel Jorgensen, Tim Knott, Thomas E. Labeledz, Amy Larson, Jennifer Lautenschlager, Daniel Leger, Dwain Leonhardt, Pete Maslowski, Linda Maslowski, Bruce Mellberg, Linda Plock, Kevin Poague, John Quinn, Ken Reitan, Diane Richards, Carol Rustad, Nancy Savery, Leslie Spath, Ruth Stearns, April Stevenson, Kristal Stoner, Ned Stringham, Jake Walker, Dan Wheeler (43)

Norfolk Marc Bathke, Mark Brogie, Donna Christiansen, David Heidt, Jan Johnson, Richard Johnson, Paul Timm, Duane Wolff (compiler) (8)

North Platte Scott Allison, Monte Brown, Tad Grasz, Tim Hajda, Robin Harding, Gregg Hoover, Roger Lawson, John Murphy, Jim Petersen, Marcia Petersen, Lanny Randolph, Mary Sue Shoemaker, Kent Skaggs, Matthew Walker, T.J. Walker (compiler) (15)

Omaha Elliott Bedows, Deb Bercaw, David Crawford, Kathleen Crawford-Rose, Jim Ducey, Nelli Falzgraf, Bob Fuchs, Betty Grenon (compiler), Lois Inkeep, Clem Klaphake, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Catherine Kuper, Steve Lamphere, Terry Lassek, Veronica Mecko, Justen Meneses, Noah Meneses, Greg Nelson, Bonnie Nicholson, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Susan Quinn, Neal Ratzlaff, Al Reyer, Jean Richter, Justin Rink, Gary Roberts, Mary Jo Rome, Rick Schmid, Eric Scholar, Justin Stolen, Phil Swanson, Jerry Toll, Penny Zaharones (37)

Ponca Chase Baker, James Baker, Vern Cummings, Jeff Fields, Bill Jammer, Jan Johnson, Richard Johnson, Tucker Lutter, Brenda Nelson, Jan Null, Jerry Probst, Jerry VonEhwegen, Jennifer Wolff (compiler) (13)

Scottsbluff Kathy DeLara, Dean Drawbaugh, Phyllis Drawbaugh, Ann Duey, Luke Hamilton, Roger Hamilton, Charlotte Herrell, Alice Kenitz (compiler), Brad McKinney, Connie McKinney, Andrew Pierson, Ruben Siegfried, Gwen Smith (13)

2011-2012 CBC Site Data

	Date	Species	Individuals	Observers	Low Temp	High Temp	Sky	Precipitation
Ames	14 Dec	55	4,095	7	40	50	cloudy	rain
Beaver Valley	23 Dec	28	728	3	18	42	clear	none
Branched Oak-Seward	16 Dec	67	7,618	14	16	39	clear	none
Calamus-Loup	28 Dec	56	9,744	8	21	70	clear	none
Crawford	2 Jan	29	1,374	4	23	45	clear	none
DeSoto-Boyer	18 Dec	66	8,316	22	27	51	clear/pt cloudy	none
Grand Island	17 Dec	59	19,454	15	26	49	clear	none
Harrison	3 Jan	25	270	4	28	45	pt cloudy/clear	none
Lake McConaughy	31 Dec	103	28,460	26	21	50	pt cloudy/cloudy	lt snow
Lincoln	17 Dec	69	23,421	43	20	50	clear	none
Norfolk	17 Dec	51	17,213	8	28	46	pt cloudy	none
North Platte	17 Dec	68	37,567	15	15	54	clear	none
Omaha	17 Dec	70	14,550	37	23	51	cloudy/clear	none
Ponca S.P.	14 Dec	53	4,013	13	26	42	cloudy	rain
Scottsbluff	17 Dec	57	29,238	13	31	51	clear	none

139^a 206,061^a 232^a 24^b 49^b

a- total (sum of column values)

b- average

c-number of people who participated in CBCs. Note: many observers participated in more than one CBC.

2011-2012 Christmas Bird Count

	Ames	Beaver Valley	BOL-Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison
Gr White-fronted Goose						70	2	
Snow Goose						180		
Ross's Goose								
Cackling Goose			39	1		24	23	
Canada Goose	1,121		571	3,637		1,931	4,216	
Trumpeter Swan				35				
Wood Duck	cw		1				21	
Gadwall						1		
American Wigeon				65				
Mallard	175	89	393	4,067	5	656	1,059	
Blue-winged Teal							6	
Northern Shoveler	cw		1				39	
Northern Pintail			cw			53	2	
Green-winged Teal			cw	4		30		
Canvasback								
Redhead							1	
Ring-necked Duck	1		1	10		6		
Greater Scaup								
Lesser Scaup				1				
White-winged Scoter								
Bufflehead								
Common Goldeneye	cw		6	66		161	15	
Hooded Merganser				1				
Common Merganser			24	40		459		
Red-breasted Merganser								
Ruddy Duck			cw			50		
Duck sp.						320		
Northern Bobwhite			cw	13				
Ring-necked Pheasant	16	1	12		1	4	1	
Sharp-tailed Grouse								19
Greater Prairie-Chicken				4				
Wild Turkey	29	75	6	170	394	473	138	

2011-2012 Christmas Bird Count

	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Gr White-fronted Goose								72
Snow Goose	3	7	8	3			12	213
Ross's Goose	1			1			4	6
Cackling Goose	125	131	3	2	4		728	1,080
Canada Goose	2,226	12,622	3,820	14,534	7,509	40	19,864	72,091
Trumpeter Swan	22		1					58
Wood Duck		2						24
Gadwall	559	2	1	14			40	617
American Wigeon	552			2			73	692
Mallard	146	849	97	20,729	322	489	3,601	32,677
Blue-winged Teal								6
Northern Shoveler	23	5		37	5		5	115
Northern Pintail	16	5		57	8		22	163
Green-winged Teal	294	9		57	44		59	497
Canvasback	332			1			4	337
Redhead	322	cw					4	327
Ring-necked Duck	310							328
Greater Scaup	46							46
Lesser Scaup	491				4		1	497
White-winged Scoter	1							1
Bufflehead	353				2			355
Common Goldeneye	846			73	143	12	185	1,507
Hooded Merganser	19	1			1			22
Common Merganser	3,597			3	37	6		4,166
Red-breasted Merganser	9							9
Ruddy Duck	29	7						86
Duck sp.								320
Northern Bobwhite								13
Ring-necked Pheasant	52	14	23	11	3	6	29	173
Sharp-tailed Grouse								19
Greater Prairie-Chicken	8			9				21
Wild Turkey		6	103	37	75	178	48	1,732

2011-2012 Christmas Bird Count

	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Pied-billed Grebe	4			1	2			7
Horned Grebe	1							3
Red-necked Grebe	2							2
Western Grebe	600							600
American White Pelican	1							3
Great Blue Heron	19	10		1	9		5	58
Bald Eagle	53	4	15	22	33	4	13	209
adult						3		29
immature						1		16
unspecified age	53	4	15	22	33		13	164
Northern Harrier	23	8	1	6	8	3	1	87
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7	2	3	5	3	1	cw	35
Cooper's Hawk	6	4	cw	1	4	1	1	22
Accipiter sp.	1	2	1		1			5
Red-tailed Hawk	47	84	60	36	126	26	20	692
Ferruginous Hawk	3						3	6
Rough-legged Hawk	3	5	2	1		1	6	41
Buteo sp.		6	2					8
Golden Eagle								7
American Kestrel	10	11	16	13	12	3	28	145
Merlin		2	1	1	2	1		11
Peregrine Falcon				1				2
Prairie Falcon	3			1			2	9
Hawk sp.								1
Virginia Rail	3							3
American Coot	6,007	10		51	1		66	6,163
Sandhill Crane								3,510
Killdeer	6			1	1			8
Dunlin	1							1
Wilson's Snipe	18			2	1		1	30
Bonaparte's Gull	9							9
Mew Gull	3							3

2011-2012 Christmas Bird Count

	Ames	Beaver Valley	BOL-Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison
Blue Jay	55	11	150	1	3	57	23	
Black-billed Magpie				1	3			
American Crow	145	9	506	571	17	396	46	6
Horned Lark	10		5		13	21	8	73
Black-capped Chickadee	75		99	15	23	298	12	5
Tufted Titmouse						12		
Red-breasted Nuthatch		1			1		2	
White-breasted Nuthatch	20	12	89	9	3	145	15	3
Pygmy Nuthatch								3
Brown Creeper	1		6	2		13	6	1
Carolina Wren	2	cw				1		
Winter Wren	1							
Marsh Wren								
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4		12			11	3	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet								
Eastern Bluebird	8		286			77	15	
Mountain Bluebird								
Townsend's Solitaire			5	1	1			5
Hermit Thrush			1			2		
American Robin	170	4	1,432	418	43	26	211	9
Northern Mockingbird								
Brown Thrasher								
European Starling	541	134	587	125	410	254	8,141	4
Cedar Waxwing	312		113	31		105		
Lapland Longspur								
Snow Bunting				9				
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2		31			26		
Spotted Towhee			2			2		
Eastern Towhee								
American Tree Sparrow	196	192	651	15	28	326	1	15
Field Sparrow								
Savannah Sparrow			2					

2011-2012 Christmas Bird Count

	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Blue Jay	12	231	65	8	72	76	55	819
Black-billed Magpie	17		4	2		1	15	43
American Crow	14	178	156	26	59	116	61	2,306
Horned Lark	658	49	68	5		30	7	947
Black-capped Chickadee	5	281	79	5	295	75	40	1,307
Tufted Titmouse		5			21			38
Red-breasted Nuthatch		12	4	1			4	25
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	146	66	5	187	19		720
Pygmy Nuthatch								3
Brown Creeper	3	18	7	4	19	4 cw		84
Carolina Wren					7			10
Winter Wren	1				4			6
Marsh Wren	3						1	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	32	11		2	9	1		85
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				1	1			2
Eastern Bluebird	4	57 cw		5	48	2		502
Mountain Bluebird	21			40				61
Townsend's Solitaire	58						20	90
Hermit Thrush								3
American Robin	4,177	258	44	307	85	384	407	7,975
Northern Mockingbird		1						1
Brown Thrasher	1							1
European Starling	710	2,887	9,795	98	2,080	793	522	27,081
Cedar Waxwing	45	111	39	3	94	291	21	1,165
Lapland Longspur	56		11	3		60		130
Snow Bunting								9
Yellow-rumped Warbler	21	7		1	4			92
Spotted Towhee		1						5
Eastern Towhee		1						1
American Tree Sparrow	200	634	138	52	844	755	29	4,076
Field Sparrow			4					4
Savannah Sparrow					7			9

2011-2012 Christmas Bird Count

	Ames	Beaver Valley	BOL-Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison
Fox Sparrow			2					
Song Sparrow	9	2	14			5		
Swamp Sparrow	4		2			1		
White-throated Sparrow	2		2			5		
Harris's Sparrow	50		46			24	4	
White-crowned Sparrow	1		6			1		
Sparrow sp.			40					
Dark-eyed Junco	166	17	614	38	39	694	178	22
Slate-colored			349		29			
Oregon			3		5			
Pink-sided								
unspecified subspecies	166	17	262	38	5	694	178	22
Northern Cardinal	69		145	13		158	30	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak								
Red-winged Blackbird	cw		303	20		1	265	
Western Meadowlark	1			19			354	
Meadowlark sp.	38		129			1		
Yellow-headed Blackbird								
Rusty Blackbird								
Common Grackle			8	1				
Great-tailed Grackle				18				
Brown-headed Cowbird	1						1	
Purple Finch	3		13	1		6		
House Finch	12	2	73	76	19	10	33	6
Common Redpoll					4			23
Pine Siskin			8		5	1		
American Goldfinch	318	21	390	79	165	98	221	7
House Sparrow	169	12	297	33	36	390	238	12
TOTAL SPECIES	55	28	67	56	29	66	59	25
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	4,095	728	7,618	9,744	1,374	8,316	19,454	270

2011-2012 Christmas Bird Count

	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Fox Sparrow		1			2			5
Song Sparrow	3	17	1		20	4	3	78
Swamp Sparrow					5	1		13
White-throated Sparrow		7			10			26
Harris's Sparrow	7	67	2		34	6 cw		240
White-crowned Sparrow	7	1		cw			68	84
Sparrow sp.								40
Dark-eyed Junco	378	965	255	232	509	257	173	4,537
Slate-colored		438		228		257	44	1,345
Oregon		1		3			32	44
Pink-sided				1			11	12
unspecified subspecies	378	526	255		509		86	3,136
Northern Cardinal	19	200	38	8	118	19		817
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		1						1
Red-winged Blackbird	1,719	43		602		41	1,048	4,042
Western Meadowlark		7		5				386
Meadowlark sp.	59	2	75		40	1	22	367
Yellow-headed Blackbird							1	1
Rusty Blackbird			5			7		12
Common Grackle	7	2						18
Great-tailed Grackle	2			cw				20
Brown-headed Cowbird	150		212					364
Purple Finch	1				1	2	2	29
House Finch	138	184	58	20	45	1	149	826
Common Redpoll				1				28
Pine Siskin	53				8	2	54	131
American Goldfinch	899	431	119	134	190	109	532	3,713
House Sparrow	135	762	824	68	294	16	347	3,633
TOTAL SPECIES	103	69	52	68	70	53	57	139
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	28,460	23,421	17,213	37,567	14,550	4,013	29,238	206,061