


12-2012

Bellevue Fall Field Days

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Paseka, Janis, "Bellevue Fall Field Days" (2012). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 1305.
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Bellevue Fall Field Days

by Janis Paseka

The 2012 NOU Fall Field Days was held in conjunction with the Inland Bird Banding Association meeting at Fontenelle Forest Nature Center in Bellevue on October 26-28. The meeting, organized by Betty Grenon and Rick Schmid, drew a total of 104 attendees, including 33 members of the Inland Bird Banding Association.

On Friday evening, Phil Swanson's photographic presentation "Welcome to Omaha ...It's for the Birds" included a brief history of Omaha, an overview of area birding hotspots and photos of many of the birds which can be seen in the area. Following the presentation, a group led by Al Reyer went to Hitchcock Nature Center north of Crescent, Iowa, to view Saw-whet Owl banding conducted by Jerry Toll and Sandy Reinken. Field trips on Saturday were led by Phil Swanson, Betty Grenon, Clem Klaphake, Elliott Bedows and Loren and Babs Padelford and included the following destinations: Fontenelle Forest, Neale Woods, Nathan's Lake, Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge, Schilling Wildlife Management Area, Arbor Lodge State Park, Prairie Owl Lake, Hitchcock Nature Center, Lake Manawa State Park, Walnut Creek Lake and Wehrspann Lake. Saturday afternoon presentation topics included the Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas II by Wayne Mollhoff, diurnal raptor banding by Jerry Toll, Saw-whet Owl banding by Sandy Reinken, MAPS banding by Rick Schmid, and raptor rehabilitation by Denise Lewis.

On Saturday evening, Neal Ratzlaff appeared in the guise of Spencer Baird, first curator at the Smithsonian Institution and presented a program entitled "Names for Birds - Physicians, Women and the Smithsonian". His program touched on much of the history of ornithology in the United States in the mid 1800s and looked especially at the discovery, description and naming of Grace's, Virginia's, Lucy's and Blackburnian Warblers.

Sunday morning field trip destinations included some of the closer areas covered on Saturday. Some of the weekend highlights were Surf Scoter, Common Loon, American Woodcock, Hermit Thrush, Red Crossbill and 15 sparrow species. The total species count was 111.

NOU Fall Field Days - Bellevue

	Nebraska counties					Iowa counties	
	Cass	Douglas	Otoe	Sarpy	Washington	Harrison	Pottawattamie
Greater White-fronted Goose				x	x	x	
Snow Goose				x	x	x	
Canada Goose	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wood Duck			x	x	x	x	
Gadwall	x		x	x			x
American Wigeon			x				
Mallard	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Northern Shoveler		x	x	x			x
Northern Pintail					x	x	x
Green-winged Teal	x		x		x	x	
Canvasback		x					x
Redhead		x			x		x
Ring-necked Duck		x	x		x	x	x
Lesser Scaup		x	x		x	x	x
Surf Scoter							x
Hooded Merganser	x		x			x	
Ruddy Duck	x	x		x		x	x
Ring-necked Pheasant		x			x		
Wild Turkey			x	x	x	x	
Common Loon						x	
Pied-billed Grebe		x	x	x	x	x	x
Western Grebe							x
Double-crested Cormorant	x	x		x	x	x	x
American White Pelican					x	x	x
Great Blue Heron	x	x	x		x	x	x
Osprey		x					
Bald Eagle	x		x	x	x	x	x
Northern Harrier			x	x	x	x	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	x	x		x	x		x
Cooper's Hawk	x	x			x		
Red-tailed Hawk	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sora					x		
American Coot	x	x			x	x	x
Killdeer					x	x	

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	Nebraska counties					Iowa counties	
	Cass	Douglas	Otoe	Sarpy	Washington	Harrison	Pottawattamie
Greater Yellowlegs			x				
Pectoral Sandpiper			x				
Wilson's Snipe			x	x			
American Woodcock							x
Bonaparte's Gull							x
Franklin's Gull					x		x
Ring-billed Gull	x	x		x	x	x	x
Forster's Tern					x		
Rock Pigeon	x	x	x		x	x	x
Eurasian Collared-Dove	x		x			x	
Mourning Dove	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Eastern Screech-Owl							x
Great Horned Owl		x					x
Barred Owl			x	x			x
Northern Saw-whet Owl							x
Belted Kingfisher	x	x		x			x
Red-headed Woodpecker			x	x	x		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		x	x	x			
Downy Woodpecker	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Hairy Woodpecker	x		x	x	x	x	
Northern Flicker	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pileated Woodpecker				x			
American Kestrel	x				x		x
Merlin					x		
Blue Jay	x	x	x	x	x	x	
American Crow	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Horned Lark					x		x
Black-capped Chickadee	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Tufted Titmouse	x	x	x	x	x		
Red-breasted Nuthatch		x	x	x			
White-breasted Nuthatch	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Brown Creeper	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Winter Wren						x	

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	Nebraska counties					Iowa counties	
	Cass	Douglas	Otoe	Sarpy	Washington	Harrison	Pottawattamie
Carolina Wren	x	x	x	x	x		
Marsh Wren			x		x		
Golden-crowned Kinglet		x	x		x		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				x	x		
Eastern Bluebird	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Hermit Thrush	x	x		x			
American Robin	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Brown Thrasher							x
European Starling	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
American Pipit					x		
Cedar Waxwing	x	x		x	x		
Yellow-rumped Warbler		x	x	x	x	x	x
Spotted Towhee	x				x		
Eastern Towhee					x		
American Tree Sparrow	x		x	x	x	x	
Chipping Sparrow				x	x	x	
Clay-colored Sparrow						x	
Field Sparrow			x				
Vesper Sparrow			x		x		
Savannah Sparrow			x	x	x	x	
Grasshopper Sparrow					x		
LeConte's Sparrow					x	x	
Fox Sparrow	x			x	x	x	
Song Sparrow	x		x	x	x	x	
Lincoln's Sparrow	x		x	x	x	x	
Swamp Sparrow	x	x	x	x	x	x	
White-throated Sparrow	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Harris's Sparrow	x		x	x	x	x	
White-crowned Sparrow			x		x		
Dark-eyed Junco	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Northern Cardinal	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Red-winged Blackbird	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Eastern Meadowlark					x		
Western Meadowlark						x	

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	Nebraska counties					Iowa counties	
	Cass	Douglas	Otoe	Sarpy	Washington	Harrison	Pottawattamie
meadowlark sp.	x		x		x		
Rusty Blackbird					x	x	
Common Grackle			x		x	x	
Brown-headed Cowbird	x		x		x	x	
Purple Finch	x			x			
House Finch	x	x		x	x		
Red Crossbill		x					
Pine Siskin		x			x		
American Goldfinch	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
House Sparrow	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Totals by county	52	51	61	58	79	60	44
Total species: 111 Nebraska total: 100 species Iowa total: 78 species							