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2014 NOU/IOU Joint Meeting in Bellevue

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Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

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2014 NOU/IOU Joint Meeting in Bellevue

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The May 16-18 combined meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union and the Iowa Ornithologists' Union at Fontenelle Forest Nature Center in Bellevue, Nebraska, was a gigantic success. Over 160 birders from Nebraska, Iowa, and 6 other states attended the 3 day event. Everyone I talked to, from novice to expert, was more than delighted with all of the activities scheduled for this event.

Our Friday evening speaker Ty Smedes had some wonderful photos, especially of warblers, and I heard nothing but positive comments about his program from the attendees. On Saturday afternoon Jerry Toll talked about his experiences banding Red-tailed Hawks at the Hitchcock Nature Center near Crescent, Iowa, and Rick Hollis spoke about the importance of eBird. Saturday evening, Dan Svingen gave us some extremely valuable information regarding the status of many of our Great Plains grassland birds and made everyone feel welcome to come and bird in our nation's national grasslands, especially in South and North Dakota.

What I think made most people happy were the answers to two of the most important questions to birders: Were there birds to see? And how was the weather? To the first question the answer is a resounding YES – 181 species counted: that number included 29 warbler, 24 shorebird, 10 flycatcher and 6 vireo species. To the second question the answer is again a resounding YES (no rain, wind or extremely high temperatures). Or as Goldilocks might have said, everything was 'just right'.

Despite the high overall count of species, there were some obvious misses that could have pushed the total easily as high as 190. For example, here are some of the species that were missed: Great Horned Owl, Screech Owl, Great Egret (I saw one 2 days before the count started), Avocet, Willet (I saw 3 two days after the count), Upland Sandpiper, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Palm Warbler..... and others.

The organization of this large gathering went off like clockwork. Betty Grenon had all of the meals and box lunches scheduled accurately, and the food was delicious. Dave Heidt did a great job of organizing the field trips, Paul Roisen (who is also good with a microphone and president of IOU) dealt well with the parking issues and made sure the field trips got off on time. And again Betty Grenon (for NOU) and Cecile and Denny Thompson (for both IOU and NOU) made registration run very smoothly with no snafus. Rick Schmid was accommodating when it came to the facilities and making sure all of the electronic equipment was working smoothly.

Field trips were led by Elliott Bedows, Keith Dyché, Clem Klaphake, Robert, Joe and Sam Manning, Neal Ratzlaff, Al Reyer, Justin Rink, Gary Roberts, Paul Roisen, Rick Schmid, Ross Silcock, Phil Swanson, and Jerry Toll. Field trip destinations included Fontenelle Forest, Neale Woods, DeSoto NWR, Lake Manawa and Hitchcock Nature Center.

NOU Annual Meeting - Bellevue

	Cass	Douglas	Sarpy	Washington	Seward
Greater White-fronted Goose			x		
Snow Goose			x		
Canada Goose	x	x	x	x	
Wood Duck		x	x		
Gadwall		x	x		
American Wigeon		x			
Mallard			x		
Blue-winged Teal	x	x	x		x
Northern Shoveler		x	x		
Green-winged Teal			x		x
Canvasback			x		
Lesser Scaup			x		
Ruddy Duck			x		
Northern Bobwhite	x		x		
Ring-necked Pheasant	x		x		
Wild Turkey			x	x	
Common Loon			x		
Pied-billed Grebe		x	x		x
Horned Grebe					x
Double-crested Cormorant		x			
American White Pelican			x		
Great Blue Heron	x	x	x		
Cattle Egret					x

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	Cass	Douglas	Sarpy	Washington	Seward
Green Heron		x	x		
White-faced Ibis			x		
Turkey Vulture	x	x	x	x	
Osprey			x		
Bald Eagle			x		
Cooper's Hawk		x	x	x	
Red-shouldered Hawk			x		
Broad-winged Hawk		x	x	x	
Red-tailed Hawk		x	x	x	
Sora			x		x
Black-bellied Plover					x
American Golden-Plover					x
Semipalmated Plover					x
Piping Plover			x		
Killdeer		x	x		x
Spotted Sandpiper			x		
Greater Yellowlegs					x
Lesser Yellowlegs			x		
Hudsonian Godwit			x		x
Ruddy Turnstone			x		x
Stilt Sandpiper					x
Sanderling			x		
Dunlin			x		x
Baird's Sandpiper			x		
Least Sandpiper			x		x
White-rumped Sandpiper			x		x
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			x		
Pectoral Sandpiper			x		x
Semipalmated Sandpiper			x		x
Short-billed Dowitcher			x		x
Long-billed Dowitcher					x
American Woodcock			x		

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	Cass	Douglas	Sarpy	Washington	Seward
Wilson's Phalarope			x		x
Red-necked Phalarope					x
Bonaparte's Gull			x		
Franklin's Gull			x		x
Ring-billed Gull		x	x		x
Least Tern			x		
Black Tern		x	x		x
Forster's Tern		x	x		
Rock Pigeon		x	x		
Eurasian Collared-Dove			x		
Mourning Dove		x	x		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		x			
Barred Owl			x	x	
Common Nighthawk			x		
Chimney Swift	x	x	x	x	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		x	x	x	
Belted Kingfisher			x		
Red-headed Woodpecker		x	x	x	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	x	x	x	x	
Downy Woodpecker		x	x	x	
Hairy Woodpecker		x	x	x	
Northern Flicker		x	x		
Pileated Woodpecker			x		
American Kestrel			x		
Olive-sided Flycatcher			x		
Eastern Wood-Pewee		x	x	x	
Acadian Flycatcher			x		
Alder Flycatcher			x		
Willow Flycatcher			x		
Least Flycatcher		x	x	x	
Eastern Phoebe		x	x		
Great Crested Flycatcher		x	x	x	

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	Cass	Douglas	Sarpy	Washington	Seward
Western Kingbird			x		x
Eastern Kingbird		x	x		x
Bell's Vireo			x		
Yellow-throated Vireo	x		x		
Blue-headed Vireo		x	x	x	
Warbling Vireo	x	x	x	x	
Philadelphia Vireo			x		
Red-eyed Vireo		x	x		
Blue Jay		x	x	x	
American Crow		x	x	x	
Horned Lark			x		
Purple Martin			x		
Tree Swallow			x	x	x
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	x	x	x		
Bank Swallow			x		
Cliff Swallow		x	x		
Barn Swallow	x	x	x	x	x
Black-capped Chickadee	x	x	x	x	
Tufted Titmouse		x	x	x	
White-breasted Nuthatch		x	x	x	
Brown Creeper			x		
House Wren	x	x	x	x	
Sedge Wren			x		
Carolina Wren		x	x		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		x	x	x	
Eastern Bluebird		x	x	x	
Veery			x		
Gray-cheeked Thrush			x		
Swainson's Thrush		x	x	x	
Wood Thrush		x	x		
American Robin	x	x	x	x	x
Gray Catbird		x	x	x	

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	Cass	Douglas	Sarpy	Washington	Seward
Brown Thrasher		x	x		
European Starling	x	x	x		
Cedar Waxwing		x	x		
Ovenbird		x	x	x	
Louisiana Waterthrush			x		
Northern Waterthrush		x	x		
Golden-winged Warbler			x		
Blue-winged Warbler		x			
Black-and-white Warbler		x	x	x	
Prothonotary Warbler			x		
Tennessee Warbler		x	x	x	
Orange-crowned Warbler		x	x	x	
Nashville Warbler		x	x		
Mourning Warbler			x		
Kentucky Warbler			x		
Common Yellowthroat		x	x	x	
American Redstart		x	x	x	
Cape May Warbler			x		
Cerulean Warbler			x		
Northern Parula			x		
Magnolia Warbler		x	x	x	
Bay-breasted Warbler			x		
Blackburnian Warbler			x		
Yellow Warbler		x	x	x	
Chestnut-sided Warbler		x	x	x	
Blackpoll Warbler		x	x	x	
Black-throated Blue Warbler			x	x	
Yellow-rumped Warbler		x	x	x	
Yellow-throated Warbler			x		
Black-throated Green Warbler		x			
Canada Warbler			x	x	
Wilson's Warbler		x	x		

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	Cass	Douglas	Sarpy	Washington	Seward
Eastern Towhee		x	x	x	
Chipping Sparrow	x	x	x		
Clay-colored Sparrow		x	x		x
Field Sparrow		x	x		
Lark Sparrow		x	x		
Savannah Sparrow		x	x		
Song Sparrow			x		x
Lincoln's Sparrow			x		
White-throated Sparrow			x		
Harris's Sparrow			x		
Summer Tanager		x	x		
Scarlet Tanager		x	x	x	
Northern Cardinal		x	x	x	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	x	x	x	x	
Lazuli Bunting			x		
Indigo Bunting		x	x	x	
Dickcissel			x		
Bobolink			x		x
Red-winged Blackbird		x	x	x	x
Eastern Meadowlark			x		
Western Meadowlark			x		x
Common Grackle	x	x	x		x
Great-tailed Grackle					x
Brown-headed Cowbird		x	x	x	
Orchard Oriole	x	x	x	x	
Baltimore Oriole	x	x	x	x	x
House Finch		x	x		
American Goldfinch	x	x	x	x	
House Sparrow		x	x		x
Total species: 181	22	90	166	54	41