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Burwell Fall Field Days

by Janis Paseka

The meeting of 2016 NOU Fall Field Days took place at the Burwell Legion Club on Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, 2016. There were about 50 in attendance at the meeting, which was organized by Robin Harding, Lanny Randolph and Betty Grenon.

On Friday evening Chad Christiansen, who works for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Fort Niobrara/Valentine National Wildlife Refuge Complex, spoke about the goals of the Natural Legacy Project to identify a set of priority landscapes that, if properly managed, would conserve the majority of Nebraska's biological diversity. These landscapes, called Biologically Unique Landscapes, were selected based on known occurrences of at-risk species and ecological communities. In addition to at-risk species, these landscapes support a broad array of common species. Chad mentioned three types of projects he is involved in: working with landowners to improve grazing regimens, removal of cedars, and wetland projects, including stream and lake renovation.

On Saturday evening, E. J. Raynor, a post-doctoral research associate with Drs. Larkin Powell and Mary Bomberger Brown at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln spoke about his research in soundscape ecology, in which he studies the causes and consequences of biological (biophony), geophysical (geophony), and human-produced (anthrophony) sounds. His research deals with the effects of wind turbine sounds on grassland birds, and in particular how the turbine noise impacts the ability of male Greater Prairie-Chickens to broadcast their vocalizations.

Field trip destinations on Saturday and Sunday morning included Calamus Reservoir SRA (including a pelagic trip on the lake led by T.J. Walker), Twin Lakes WMA, Pine Glen WMA, Willow Lake WMA, Mirdan Canal WMA and Kent Diversion Dam WMA.

Field trips were led by Bill Flack, Robin Harding, Dave Heidt, Wayne Mollhoff, Lanny Randolph, and T.J. Walker. The total species count was 126. Some of the weekend highlights were Lesser Black-backed Gull, Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, 6 swallow species, 7 warbler species and 14 sparrow species.

NOU Annual Meeting - Burwell

	Brown	Garfield	Greeley	Holt	Loup	Rock	Valley	Wheeler
Canada Goose	x	x			x	x	x	x
Trumpeter Swan	x							
Wood Duck		x		x	x	x		x
Gadwall					x			
Mallard	x	x		x	x	x		x
Blue-winged Teal	x				x	x		x
Northern Shoveler	x							
Northern Pintail				x				
Green-winged Teal					x			
Redhead								x
Common Merganser					x			
Ruddy Duck						x		
Northern Bobwhite					x			
Ring-necked Pheasant					x			x
Greater Prairie-Chicken	x					x		x
Wild Turkey		x			x		x	
Pied-billed Grebe	x		x	x	x	x		x
Horned Grebe					x			
Eared Grebe					x			
Western Grebe	x				x	x		
Rock Pigeon		x		x	x		x	x
Eurasian Collared-Dove		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mourning Dove	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Ruby-throated Hummingbird								x
Sora		x		x				
American Coot	x			x		x		x
Semipalmated Plover					x			
Killdeer	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Sanderling					x			
Baird's Sandpiper					x			
Least Sandpiper					x			
Pectoral Sandpiper					x			
Long-billed Dowitcher					x			

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	Brown	Garfield	Greeley	Holt	Loup	Rock	Valley	Wheeler
Dowitcher sp	x							
Wilson's Snipe	x							
American Woodcock					x			
Spotted Sandpiper	x	x			x			
Solitary Sandpiper					x			
Lesser Yellowlegs		x						
Yellowlegs sp	x							
Franklin's Gull		x	x		x		x	
Ring-billed Gull	x	x			x		x	
Herring Gull		x						
Lesser Black-backed Gull					x			
Double-crested Cormorant	x	x		x	x			x
American White Pelican	x	x		x	x	x		
Great Blue Heron		x		x	x	x	x	x
White-faced Ibis				x				
Ibis sp	x							
Turkey Vulture	x	x		x	x		x	x
Osprey		x			x			x
Bald Eagle	x	x			x	x		
Northern Harrier	x	x		x	x	x		
Sharp-shinned Hawk					x			
Cooper's Hawk		x	x		x			
Swainson's Hawk		x		x				
Red-tailed Hawk	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Rough-legged Hawk		x	x					x
Eastern Screech-Owl		x						
Great Horned Owl		x						x
Belted Kingfisher		x			x		x	x
Red-headed Woodpecker		x						
Red-bellied Woodpecker		x			x		x	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		x						
Downy Woodpecker	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Hairy Woodpecker		x		x	x			x

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	Brown	Garfield	Greeley	Holt	Loup	Rock	Valley	Wheeler
Northern Flicker	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
American Kestrel	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Merlin		x						
Peregrine Falcon		x			x			
Prairie Falcon		x			x			
Eastern Phoebe		x	x					
Eastern Kingbird		x						
Blue-headed Vireo				x				
Red-eyed Vireo							x	
Blue Jay		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
American Crow	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Horned Lark	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Tree Swallow								x
Barn Swallow		x		x	x	x		x
Black-capped Chickadee	x				x	x		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	x			x	x	x		
White-breasted Nuthatch	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
House Wren	x	x		x	x	x		
Sedge Wren		x		x				
Marsh Wren		x		x				x
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		x	x	x	x		x	x
Eastern Bluebird	x	x			x	x	x	x
Swainson's Thrush		x						
American Robin	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Gray Catbird					x			x
Brown Thrasher					x			
European Starling		x	x		x	x	x	x
Cedar Waxwing		x			x		x	x
House Sparrow		x			x		x	
American Pipit	x	x			x	x		
House Finch		x	x		x			
American Goldfinch	x	x	x		x	x		x
Tennessee Warbler			x		x			

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	Brown	Garfield	Greeley	Holt	Loup	Rock	Valley	Wheeler
Orange-crowned Warbler		x	x		x		x	x
Nashville Warbler			x		x			
Common Yellowthroat		x			x	x		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	x	x			x	x	x	x
Black-throated Green Warbler					x			
Wilson's Warbler		x			x			
Spotted Towhee	x	x			x	x	x	
Chipping Sparrow	x	x			x			x
Clay-colored Sparrow					x			
Field Sparrow		x			x		x	x
Vesper Sparrow	x	x			x	x		x
Lark Sparrow		x				x		x
Savannah Sparrow	x	x			x	x	x	x
Grasshopper Sparrow					x	x		x
Le Conte's Sparrow					x			
Song Sparrow		x		x	x	x		x
Lincoln's Sparrow		x			x		x	x
Swamp Sparrow		x			x			x
White-throated Sparrow			x		x			
Harris's Sparrow		x			x	x		x
White-crowned Sparrow		x			x	x	x	x
Dark-eyed Junco		x			x	x		x
Northern Cardinal	x	x			x		x	x
Lazuli Bunting					x			
Dickcissel					x		x	
Bobolink						x		
Red-winged Blackbird	x	x			x	x		x
Western Meadowlark	x	x			x	x	x	x
Common Grackle		x	x		x	x		x
Brown-headed Cowbird						x		
Total Species	44	78	19	35	95	48	37	56