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## 2010–2011 Christmas Bird Counts

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## 2010-2011 Christmas Bird Counts

by Don Paseka

Fourteen Christmas Bird Counts were held in Nebraska in the 2010-2011 season. The Branched Oak-Seward count was canceled due to weather, but in comparison to last year, the weather was generally dry, mild and cooperative. Even though open water was limited, the species associated with water were well represented, resulting in the highest total number of species (149) ever, easily topping the previous high count of 138 in 2001. In all, 17 species set new high counts, 5 tied previous highs, and the amazing Brown-headed Nuthatches stayed in Lincoln and were counted for the first time in Nebraska.

Twelve species including Northern Harrier and Rough-legged Hawk were found on all 14 counts. However, 34 species were found on only one count, and of those, 18 were single individuals. Some of the more interesting "one-bird wonders" were Black-crowned Night-Heron at Grand Island, Northern Goshawk and Northern Saw-whet Owl at DeSoto-Boyer, Red-shouldered Hawk at Omaha, Brown Thrasher at Lake McConaughy and Yellow-headed Blackbird at Ames.

Twenty-nine species of Anseriformes were counted with record numbers for Cackling Goose (6,946), Canada Goose (81,450), Trumpeter Swan (49), Canvasback (150) and Long-tailed Duck (11). In addition, all three scoters were found as singles at Lake McConaughy.

For only the second time, all six grebe species were counted, with record numbers of Pied-billed Grebe (14) and Western Grebe (777). American Coot set a new high (1654), as did Wilson's Snipe (33). A single Greater Yellowlegs at Calamus marks only the third time that this species has been found on a Nebraska count.

While gull and raptor numbers were unremarkable, many other non-waterbirds had excellent counts. Rock Pigeons set a new high (6593), as did Eurasian Collared-Dove (998), Downy Woodpecker (587), and Hairy Woodpecker (120). The count week bird at DeSoto marks the first time Pileated Woodpecker was found in a circle other than Omaha. Some other woodland birds also did well, with new highs for Winter Wren (11), Hermit Thrush (11), and Yellow-rumped Warbler (42), along with Snow Bunting (62) out in the open areas. Only three times in the past has even a single Grey-crowned Rosy-Finch been counted, so the Scottsbluff count of 10 is noteworthy.

Among all these high counts, a few species had remarkably low counts. Sharp-tailed Grouse were missed entirely for the first time since 1991. The 35 Northern Bobwhites, found on only 5 counts, was the lowest total since 22 in 1998. The Black-billed Magpie count of 34 was the second lowest count ever; only the 1967 count of 16 was lower. Black-capped Chickadee numbers continue a slow rebound with this year's 1123 the highest count since 2002.

## 2010-11 CBC Site Data

	Date	Species	Individuals	Observers	Low Temp (F)	High Temp (F)	Sky	Precipitation
Ames	14 Dec	60	19,512	13	21	31	cloudy	none
Beaver Valley	19 Dec	26	1,010	3	22	30	cloudy	none
Calamus-Loup	28 Dec	63	25,480	8	10	50	clear	none
Crawford	21 Dec	37	1,259	2	28	30	partly cloudy	none
DeSoto-Boyer	2 Jan	65	16,478	21	13	28	clear	none
Grand Island	18 Dec	61	29,602	14	17	26	cloudy	none
Harrison	22 Dec	24	423	2	24	28	cloudy	none
Lake McConaughy	2 Jan	109	20,339	17	-8	31	partly cloudy	none
Lincoln	18 Dec	77	23,394	42	10	28	partly clear	none
Norfolk	18 Dec	55	9,749	7	8	29	cloudy	none
North Platte	18 Dec	75	29,404	9	17	27	clear	none
Omaha	18 Dec	78	26,591	42	15	30	cloudy/clear	none
Ponca S.P.	14 Dec	54	6,171	9	17	27	cloudy/clear	none
Scottsbluff	18 Dec	57	24,191	9	19	29	clear/cloudy	none
<b>Total</b>		<b>149</b>	<b>233,603</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>		

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison	Lake McConaughy
Greater White-fronted Goose					1	28		4
Snow Goose	2		2			63		
Ross's Goose			1					
Cackling Goose	106		54		4	115		192
Canada Goose	4,157		8,830		5,168	19,614		4,772
Trumpeter Swan	2		26					21
Wood Duck	1					5		
Gadwall			16					216
American Wigeon			26					150
Mallard	10,828	63	4,600	3	4,770	1,129	4	1,820
Blue-winged Teal								
Northern Shoveler								6
Northern Pintail	2				10			12
Green-winged Teal						1		81
Canvasback						2		141
Redhead								166
Ring-necked Duck						2		197
Greater Scaup								65
Lesser Scaup					12			331
Surf Scoter								1
White-winged Scoter								1
Black Scoter								1
Long-tailed Duck								11
Bufflehead								74
Common Goldeneye	1		56		161	10		398
Hooded Merganser			1					25
Common Merganser	12		75		48			1,660
Red-breasted Merganser								16
Ruddy Duck					3			3
Duck sp.	44							
Northern Bobwhite			12			7		8
Ring-necked Pheasant	36	11	2	14	78	1		69
Greater Prairie-Chicken		114	53					12
Wild Turkey	68		12	51	163	257	13	71

	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca S. P.	Scottsbluff	Total
Greater White-fronted Goose	1		8				42
Snow Goose	28	1	6	8	1,000		1,110
Ross's Goose							1
Cackling Goose	438	8	5,042	817		170	6,946
Canada Goose	10,055	2,735	4,047	9,606	2	12,464	81,450
Trumpeter Swan							49
Wood Duck	1						7
Gadwall	6		30	1		7	276
American Wigeon			4			36	216
Mallard	1,194	32	10,257	3,688	344	4,389	43,121
Blue-winged Teal				1			1
Northern Shoveler			15	3		15	39
Northern Pintail			20	6		9	59
Green-winged Teal	10		25	36		6	159
Canvasback	5					2	150
Redhead			1				167
Ring-necked Duck		4					203
Greater Scaup	1						66
Lesser Scaup		1		1			345
Surf Scoter							1
White-winged Scoter							1
Black Scoter							1
Long-tailed Duck							11
Bufflehead			10				84
Common Goldeneye	2		418	43	33	59	1,181
Hooded Merganser	1		2	3			32
Common Merganser			500	23	96		2,414
Red-breasted Merganser							16
Ruddy Duck	3	1		4			14
Duck sp.				5			49
Northern Bobwhite	8					cw	35
Ring-necked Pheasant	14	68	1		120	3	417
Greater Prairie-Chicken	1		76		64		320
Wild Turkey	48	5	20	157	32		897

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison	Lake McConaughy
Common Loon								3
Pied-billed Grebe								14
Horned Grebe								3
Red-necked Grebe								1
Eared Grebe								
Western Grebe								776
Clark's Grebe								3
Double-crested Cormorant								
American White Pelican			1					1
Great Blue Heron	5		cw			1		8
Black-crowned Night-Heron						1		
Bald Eagle	8	2	57	2	40	10		56
adult	2		18	2		9		
immature	1	2	39			1		
unspecified age	5				40			56
Northern Harrier	4	1	11	3	7	8	2	13
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3		1		7	1		3
Cooper's Hawk	1		1		1	4		1
Northern Goshawk					1			
Accipiter sp.								
Red-shouldered Hawk								
Red-tailed Hawk	47	8	19	10	95	44	1	36
Ferruginous Hawk				1			1	2
Rough-legged Hawk	11	2	1	8	5	8	5	20
Buteo sp.								
Golden Eagle				2	cw		1	
American Kestrel	5	1	2	2	4	18		25
Merlin	3		cw	cw				1
Prairie Falcon	1		cw	1	cw	2		1
Hawk sp.					1			
Virginia Rail								4
American Coot	cw					8		1,600
Killdeer			1					7
Greater Yellowlegs			1					

	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca S. P.	Scottsbluff	Total
Common Loon							3
Pied-billed Grebe							14
Horned Grebe							3
Red-necked Grebe							1
Eared Grebe			1				1
Western Grebe			1				777
Clark's Grebe							3
Double-crested Cormorant			1				1
American White Pelican				4			6
Great Blue Heron	4		1	3		4	26
Black-crowned Night-Heron							1
Bald Eagle	2	15	9	33	27	6	267
adult	1	10	8		16		66
immature	1	5	1		11		61
unspecified age				33		6	140
Northern Harrier	12		7	8	1	5	82
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9	1		7			32
Cooper's Hawk	5	2	1	3			19
Northern Goshawk							1
Accipiter sp.	2	1					3
Red-shouldered Hawk				1			1
Red-tailed Hawk	71	36	22	146	58	24	617
Ferruginous Hawk							4
Rough-legged Hawk	8	7	2	3	25	4	109
Buteo sp.	4	6					10
Golden Eagle					2		5
American Kestrel	18	8	8	17	2	28	138
Merlin	1	1	1	2			9
Prairie Falcon			1				6
Hawk sp.							1
Virginia Rail							4
American Coot	2	4	39			1	1,654
Killdeer	2						10
Greater Yellowlegs							1

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison	Lake McConaughy
Wilson's Snipe	1		4					21
Bonaparte's Gull								1
Ring-billed Gull								133
California Gull								16
Herring Gull			1					75
Thayer's Gull								2
Lesser Black-backed Gull								1
Glaucous Gull								
Great Black-backed Gull								
Gull sp.			1					
Rock Pigeon	154		105	19	208	1,684		427
Eurasian Collared-Dove	5		17	102		207	19	143
Mourning Dove	41		2		36	14		38
Eastern Screech-Owl			3	1	2	12		3
Great Horned Owl	5	1	5	1	8	1		4
Barred Owl	cw				7			
Long-eared Owl								2
Short-eared Owl								3
Nothorn Saw-whet Owl					1			
Owl sp.	1							
Belted Kingfisher	4	2	3		2	3		4
Red-headed Woodpecker					4			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	41		3		78	7		9
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2		2			1		
Downy Woodpecker	27	3	12	1	91	23	1	40
Hairy Woodpecker	4	2	5		19	3		13
Northern Flicker	51	5	29	5	135	53		72
Red-shafted								
Red x Yellow-shafted								
Yellow-shafted								
unspecified	51	5	29	5	135	53		72
Pileated Woodpecker					cw			
Loggerhead Shrike					1	1		
Northern Shrike	cw		10	2	2	3		5



	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca S. P.	Scottsbluff	Total
Wilson's Snipe			1	1		5	33
Bonaparte's Gull							1
Ring-billed Gull			301			2	436
California Gull						1	17
Herring Gull			65				141
Thayer's Gull			2				4
Lesser Black-backed Gull			1				2
Glaucous Gull			1				1
Great Black-backed Gull			1				1
Gull sp.							1
Rock Pigeon	2,309	424	358	482	47	376	6,593
Eurasian Collared-Dove	42	91	8	3	4	357	998
Mourning Dove	241	1	2	124	3		502
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	1					26
Great Horned Owl	9	4	1	5	1	1	46
Barred Owl	4			5	1		17
Long-eared Owl		1			2		5
Short-eared Owl	1				3		7
Nothorn Saw-whet Owl							1
Owl sp.	3						4
Belted Kingfisher	10	1	4	2	1	8	44
Red-headed Woodpecker				23			27
Red-bellied Woodpecker	70	17	5	136	37	1	404
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4		1	2			12
Downy Woodpecker	157	20	11	161	36	4	587
Hairy Woodpecker	22	9	3	22	15	3	120
Northern Flicker	95	17	11	128	48	16	665
Red-shafted	7		5	2	2		16
Red x Yellow-shafted						4	4
Yellow-shafted	48		6	126	46		226
unspecified	40	17				12	419
Pileated Woodpecker				3			3
Loggerhead Shrike							2
Northern Shrike	3	2	1	1	3	3	35



	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca S. P.	Scottsbluff	Total
Blue Jay	353	46	11	147	85	54	942
Black-billed Magpie		2				12	34
American Crow	145	69	5	89	115	cw	2,882
Horned Lark	110	78	76	13	142	50	4,094
Black-capped Chickadee	236	43	3	332	121	5	1,123
Tufted Titmouse				34			51
Red-breasted Nuthatch	55	2	7	4		3	91
White-breasted Nuthatch	120	27	5	205	73		605
Pygmy Nuthatch						cw	6
Brown-headed Nuthatch	2						2
Brown Creeper	43	7	7	13	3		103
Carolina Wren	6			6			12
Winter Wren	4			3			11
Marsh Wren			1			1	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	83	6	15	12	10	1	143
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			1	2			3
Eastern Bluebird	71	5		175	51		509
Mountain Bluebird							11
Townsend's Solitaire			2			18	74
Hermit Thrush			cw	9			11
American Robin	613	267	3,697	1,533	340	377	14,865
Northern Mockingbird	1						3
Brown Thrasher							1
European Starling	3,265	4,311	3,091	5,007	830	3,647	28,741
Bohemian Waxwing							4
Cedar Waxwing	34	14	154	130	35	28	784
Lapland Longspur	cw	7		131	38		1,116
Snow Bunting	3						62
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9	1	2	2			42
Spotted Towhee	2			1	1		5
Eastern Towhee	1						2
American Tree Sparrow	549	408	56	1,179	503	11	4,582
Clay-colored Sparrow				2			2
Field Sparrow	5						5



	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca S. P.	Scottsbluff	Total
Fox Sparrow	2				1		5
Song Sparrow	21		4	34		6	97
Lincoln's Sparrow				2			2
Swamp Sparrow				6			6
White-throated Sparrow	29			7			40
Harris's Sparrow	57	12	7	74	3	1	218
White-crowned Sparrow					2	112	148
Sparrow sp.	39						39
Dark-eyed Junco	1,024	237	154	991	458	333	6,369
Slate-colored	362	234	139	991	457	119	2,900
Oregon	28	3	13		1	30	77
Gray-headed						1	1
Pink-sided			2			10	15
unspecified subspecies	634					173	3,376
Northern Cardinal	253	44	13	244	32	1	913
Red-winged Blackbird		17	510	6	810	946	2,691
Western Meadowlark		80	6				222
Meadowlark sp.	39			8	18	3	269
Yellow-headed Blackbird							1
Rusty Blackbird							7
Brewer's Blackbird				cw			8
Common Grackle				cw		2	36
Great-tailed Grackle				cw			365
Brown-headed Cowbird		2		2	1		13
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch						10	10
Purple Finch	23			4	1	1	42
House Finch	263	50	51	21	46	120	1,014
Red Crossbill	1					3	19
Pine Siskin	109	1	14	4	2	44	335
American Goldfinch	372	79	124	165	88	142	1,903
House Sparrow	522	410	35	267	355	251	3,489
TOTAL SPECIES	77	55	75	78	54	57	149
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	23,394	9,749	29,404	26,591	6,171	24,191	233,603

### 2010-11 CBC Participants

**Ames** Jamie Eades, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Jan Johnson, Richard Johnson, Clem Klaphake, Dan Leger, Wayne Mollhoff, Greg Nelson, Don Paseka (compiler), Janis Paseka, Gary Roberts, Jerry Toll (13)

**Beaver Valley** Belle Esau, Colleen Noecker, Don Noecker (compiler) (3)

**Calamus-Loup** Mark A. Brogie, Kathi Gerten, Robin Harding, David Heidt (compiler), Bette Klaphake, Clem Klaphake, Lanny Randolph, Duane Wolff (8)

**Crawford** Bruce Walgren (compiler), Donna Walgren (2)

**DeSoto-Boyer** Elliott Bedows, Ruth Bentzinger, Laurine Blankenau, Matt Boren, John Carlini, Suzanne Gucciardo, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Catherine Kuper, Sue Mattix, Veronica Mecko, Jim Meyer, Greg Nelson, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Sandy Reinken, Justin Rink, Gary Roberts, Shari Schwarz, Jerry Toll, Steve Van Riper (21)

**Grand Island** Gordy Backer, Tony Curtis, Dan Glomski, Blake Hatfield, Bob Hausmann, Michele Kock, Ron Kruse, Anne Kruse, Ray Kusak, Connie McCartney (compiler), Jim Meyer, Steve Morris, Vicki Orr, Patricia Smith (14 + 4 feeder watchers)

**Harrison** Bruce Walgren (compiler), Donna Walgren (2)

**Lake McConaughy** Mary Bomberger Brown, Stephen Dinsmore (compiler), Keith Dyche, Luke Hamilton, Roger Hamilton, Robin Harding, Alice Heckman, Bill Huntley, Bette Klaphake, Clem Klaphake, Rodger Knaggs, Kay Niyo, Lanny Randolph, Neal Ratzlaff, Al Reyer, Mary Sue Shoemaker, Ross Silcock (17 + 14 feeder watchers)

**Lincoln** Colleen Babcock, Elaine Bachel, Bob Boyce, Molly Boyd, Linda R. Brown (compiler), Mary Bomberger Brown, Deb Davidson, Barbara J. DiBernard, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Joe Gubanyi, Sue Guild, Mathew Hansen, Robin Harding, Julie Huddle, Paul Johnsgard, Allison Johnson, Michelle Johnson, Joel Jorgensen, Kristin Kasperek, Tim Knott, Thomas E. Labeledz, Daniel Leger, Dwain Leonhardt, James Lionberger, Ruth Lionberger, Bruce Mellberg, Linda Plock, Kevin Poague, Kathy Putensen, John Quinn, Lanny Randolph, Ken Reitan, Jessica Ripke, Jules Russ, John Sens, Ruth Stearns, April Stevenson, Ned Stringham, Chris Thody, Moni Usasz, Carol Wagener (42)

**Norfolk** Ben Brogie, Ed Brogie, Mark Brogie, Donna Christiansen, David Heidt, Justin Rink, Duane Wolff (compiler) (7)

**North Platte** Scott Allison, Tim Hajda, Roger Lawson, Jim Petersen, Marcia Petersen, Mary Sue Shoemaker, Mark Urwiller, Matthew Walker, T.J. Walker (compiler) (9)

**Omaha** Elliott Bedows, Phyllis Behring, Ruth Bentzinger, John Duresky, Krystal Fahrenkrog, Nelli Falzgraf, Betty Grenon (compiler), Nancy Hawekotte, Anne Hubbard, Rie Iriyama, Ingrid Johnson, Clem Klaphake, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Steve Lamphere, Terry Lassek, Urban Lehner, Amy Leising, Sue Mattix, Greg Nelson, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Sandy Reinken, Neal Ratzlaff, Kevin Reagan, Rebecca Reagan, Al Reyer, Jean Richter, Gary Roberts, Mary Jo Rome, Kathleen Rose, Rick Schmid, Steve Schmitt, Eric Scholar, Justin Stolen, Phil Swanson, Jerry Toll, Charlotte Weidner, Fred Zeillimaker, Melly Zeillimaker (42)

**Ponca S. P.** Verne Cummings, Jeff Fields, Bill Huser (compiler), Tucker Lutter, Jerry Probst, Paul Roisen, Jerry VonEhwegen, Jennifer Wolff, Tyler Wulf (9)

**Scottsbluff** Kathy DeLara, Dean Drawbaugh, Phyllis Drawbaugh, Ann Duey, Luke Hamilton, Roger Hamilton, Charlotte Herrell, Alice Kenitz (compiler), Ruben Siegfried (9)