

We hit 250 species on the weekend – barring any late additions – not bad for the first social-distancing NOU Big Weekend (and hopefully the last).

There was at least one report for 60 of the 93 counties, not surprisingly with better coverage east and central than far west or southwest.

Top County List was Lancaster with 149 species reported, five other counties broke the hundred species mark including Sarpy (118), Scotts Bluff (110), Seward (107), Douglas (106) and Madison (101).

The most reported species (number of counties reported in) included Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle (46 counties each), Mourning Dove (45), House Wren/Starling/Yellow Warbler (43), American Goldfinch (40), Brown-headed Cowbird (39), and Barn Swallow/Blue Jay/Common Yellowthroat (37). 33 species were reported from just one county (some by multiple observers, others by one sole reporter).

Group-wise – Waterfowl (21 species), shorebirds (30 species), sparrows (17 – 18 with House Sparrow) and Warblers (30 species).

Surprises (in my opinion)

- Black-bellied Whistling-duck – pair “just north of Burwell”
- Dunlin – reported in 6 counties
- Seven vireo species is pretty nice
- A single winter wren was reported with pretty good description
- Veery (5 counties) and Gray-cheeked Thrush (6 counties) also is nice
- WARBLERS – Louisiana Waterthrush (3 counties), Golden-winged (5 counties), Prothonotary (2), MacGillivray’s (1), Mourning (10), Kentucky (4), Hooded (2), Cape May (2), Magnolia (10), Bay-breasted (4), Blackburnian (7), Chestnut-sided (8), Blackpoll (25), Palm (3), Yellow-throated (2) and Canada (3) – all pretty neat numbers.
- TANAGERS – Summer (6 counties in one weekend), Scarlet (9) and Western (3)

Surprising Misses (not considering distribution of birders) – again in my opinion

- Bufflehead
- Sharp-tailed Grouse
- Mountain Plover
- Golden Eagle
- Ferruginous Hawk
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – all those people chasing warblers on the “east coast”, thought for sure someone would come up with a Yellow-bellied.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – coverage in “South-central” was a little slim
- Cassin’s Sparrow – basically NO bird reports from SW Nebraska
- Henslow’s Sparrow
- McCown’s Longspur
- Chestnut-collared Longspur

Individual tallies – yeah I didn’t track that – seems like Kathy DeLara said she had 130 species which would be tough to beat. I had 101 species in two days in Seward County. Feel free to share if you had more than 100 species over the weekend.

County birds – I actually added 7 species to my Seward County list (up to 180) over the two days. Feel free to share “state” or “county” or “life” list birds found during the weekend.

I have attached the spreadsheet – which includes two worksheets (tabs at the bottom).

The first worksheet (“Tally” tab at bottom) can be used for “county ticks” for those that participate in the annual county list stuff, or those pursuing “all 93” if you don’t already have a way to record them. If you enter a “1” in a county it “does the math” by county (how many “ticks” you have in that county – at the top) and by species (how many counties you have seen the species in and what percentage of counties – at the left in columns B and C). That is actually what I had made that sheet for.

The second worksheet (“Species List” at the bottom) includes 370 species that have been reported to eBird during the month of May in Nebraska (across all years) – with those we reported with a “1” beside them and then below that those we didn’t with a “0” – you could look at that tab to see if any of the “0’s” were something you saw.

I thought about keeping track of observers, number of reports, etc. but this was already a lot of work to get to this point. (On that note thank you Mark Brogie for doing the annual listing stuff every year!!!)

If you have any additions (species or county ticks) on the first worksheet, feel free to let me know, I will be glad to add them.

Great job everyone – while it wasn’t as good as an NOU meeting, it was great to “interact” with all of you in some way, great to get “warbler neck” like I would at an NOU meeting (still hurts by the way) and of course just to “get out with a purpose” birding wise.

Thanks

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