

Thanks to everyone that participated in the Spring NOU Big Weekend 2021.

You all did so well on day 1 (Saturday) this year that I thought we were absolutely going to crush the 250 species reported last year. New additions were hard to come by on day 2 (Sunday) but we did manage to top last year's species list with **a total of 252 species!** Not a bad two days of effort! Across the two years – we have reported 271 species in Spring Big Weekends, with 19 species reported in 2020 but not 2021 and 21 species reported in 2021 but not 2020.

There was at least one report for 63 of the 93 counties (60 last year) – with better western coverage this year (25 counties versus 16) and slightly lower eastern coverage (38 counties versus 44 counties), but overall numbers of reports were still heavily focused eastward. Interestingly 17 of 93 counties were not surveyed by anyone either spring with most of those in the SW and SC portions of the state.

There was a total of 611 eBird reports across the two days (349 Saturday and 262 on Sunday) and maybe 12-15 email reports.

Most eBird Checklists by county included: Lancaster (96), Sarpy (55), Douglas (54), Lincoln (38), Dixon (24), Scotts Bluff (23), Madison and Kimball (19), Buffalo (17) and Saunders (15).

Most species reported by county included (county #2021 (#2020)): Lancaster 151 (149), Douglas 132 (106), Sarpy 124 (118), Dixon 117 (88), Lincoln 114 (78), Cedar 110 (38), Adams 107 (9), Stanton 100 (63), Buffalo 98 (45) and Otoe 95 (77).

The most reported species (number of counties reported in – out of 63) for 2021 included Red-winged Blackbird (53), Mourning Dove (51), American Robin (50), Common Grackle (47), Barn Swallow (46), Blue Jay and Yellow Warbler (43), Red-headed Woodpecker and Starling and Brown-headed Cowbird (41), and Baltimore Oriole (40). 29 species were reported from just one county.

Main species groups (group - #species 2021, #species 2020) – Waterfowl – 22, 21; Shorebirds – 33, 30; Sparrows – 21, 18 and Warblers – 26, 30.

Surprises (in my opinion)

- Broad-billed Hummingbird – obviously the BIGGEST surprise of the weekend – nice job Caleb!!!
A 1st State Record
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird reported in 15/63 counties – pretty good
- Sora – reported in 12 counties
- Least Tern – reported in 4 counties
- American Bittern – reported in 5 counties
- Broad-winged Hawk – reported in 6 counties
- Barred Owl – reported in 10 counties
- Black-billed Magpie – reported in JUST TWO counties (Madison and Scotts Bluff)
- Northern Mockingbird – reported in just 4 counties
- Eastern Bluebird – reported in just 7 out of 63 counties (compared to 18/60 in 2020)
- White-winged Crossbill – one reported – a good bird!
- Both McCown's (Thick-billed) and Chestnut-collared Longspurs reported
- Green-tailed Towhee – one reported – a good bird!
- Yellow-breasted Chat – reported in just 3 counties

- Warblers – Louisiana Waterthrush (4 counties), Golden-winged, Prothonotary, Connecticut, Kentucky (3 counties)
- Summer Tanager (8 counties)

Surprising Misses – again in my opinion

- Sharp-tailed Grouse
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Common Poorwill
- Western Wood-pewee ("spring" is late in the west this year which was clear with western insectivores)
- American Pipit
- Western Tanager
- (253 and 254 – two of my team members in Chadron found both Lewis's Woodpecker and Western Tanager on Monday in Sowbelly Canyon in Sioux County)

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 the 271 species that have been reported during the two Spring Big Weekends 2020 and 2021.

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 – once again – 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.

Thanks

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