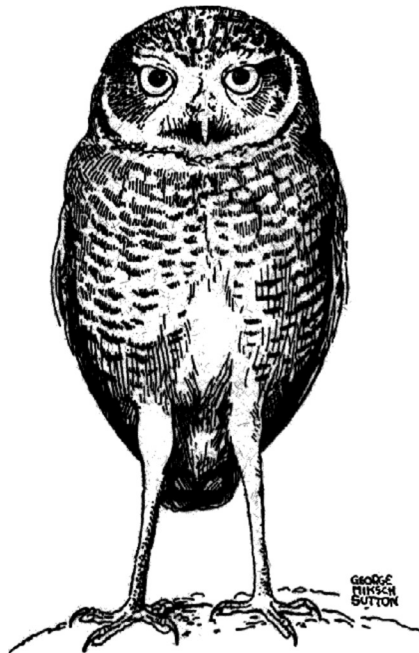


The Nebraska Bird Review

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Editor's Comment

Although the cover of this issue of the *Nebraska Bird Review* will look familiar, there are some significant changes beneath the surface.

First, after 22 years of service, Janis Paseka has stepped down as Editor, and I will be trying to replace her. Janis has been a fantastic editor, a job that takes a lot of time, patience, and good judgment. Several NOU Presidents have come and gone during her years of service (I was one of them!), and we all appreciated her leadership of this very important part of our organization. Thank you, Janis, for all that you've done!

Second, Ross Silcock is stepping away from his many years of authoring the Seasonal Field Reports, which have been the backbone of the *Nebraska Bird Review*. Ross will continue editing *Birds of Nebraska Online*, a fantastic resource that many of us use regularly in planning our birding trips. Thank you, Ross, for all your efforts over the years, and for facilitating the transfer of this important role to Tobin Brown of Lincoln.

Many of you know Tobin, who set the Nebraska Big Year record just last year. Of course, his accomplishment took huge amounts of time in the field, but it also took an enormous time investment to research the geography and timing of bird appearances in our state so he could maximize the chances of finding some of our uncommon species. This is the sort of talent required to compile a seasonal report. My job as editor is made much easier knowing that the seasonal reports are in Tobin's hands.

Finally, the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union has decided to transition to electronic publication of the NBR. Many other statewide organizations have taken the same step, and for the same reason. Printing and postage prices have increased to the point where the NBR was consuming all our dues, leaving us with almost nothing to use for other important activities. While I was President, we began moving to electronic publication of our newsletter, *The Burrowing Owl*, so this transition should be familiar to many of you.

My job as editor is to guide us through this transition, and I ask for your patience as we do so. Please feel free to let me know your questions and concerns, and I will do my best to address them in this process.

Thanks to all of you for your continuing support of the NOU. I hope you enjoy this new version of the *Nebraska Bird Review*!

Dan Leger

WINTER FIELD REPORT

December 2025–February 2026

Tobin J. Brown

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As many of you know, Ross W. Silcock is stepping away from NBR after many years of Seasonal Reports and I have been asked to take over. It goes without saying that the work Ross has put in over the years is incredible, and I have some big shoes to fill! I will do my best to keep to the excellent example Ross has provided, as well as introduce my own voice.

The species accounts and this introduction are my commentary and opinions only. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions, comments, and suggestions. Ross will continue updating Birds of Nebraska Online (BONO, <https://birds.outdoornebraska.gov/>) and assisting me with these Seasonal Reports.

As noticed with last summer's White-winged Dove reports, we are still seeing issues with Merlin-only eBird checklists. The offending bird over this past winter was Redpoll, with only 4 documented reports accompanied by 28 Merlin-only reports. I personally noticed Merlin misidentifying American Goldfinch calls as Redpoll ("Merlin-polls") many times over the winter. Merlin is imperfect, especially with tricky species, and I encourage everyone to take Merlin's suggestions as just suggestions, and to verify recordings afterwards. Remember: Merlin is a tool to *assist* you in the field, not to replace your field abilities.

Despite a relatively good finch forecast and a promising November finch movement, winter irruptive finches were very scarce across the state: there were only four documented reports of Redpoll; Evening Grosbeak was reported thrice (all Rocky Mountains or type 4), including a great flock of 27 on the Harrison CBC; and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches and Cassin's Finches were absent. Most Red Crossbill reports (all identified to type of the expected Type 2) were sequestered to the Pine Ridge with only a few making their way east, with reports in Buffalo, Dixon, and Lancaster counties. Other missing winter birds included Lewis's Woodpecker, Pinyon Jay, and Snowy Owl.

This winter saw several birds taking advantage of warmer weather, with early and northerly records documented for many species: notably Smith's Longspur, Clay-colored Sparrow, Orange-crowned Warbler, Tree Swallow, and a number of waterfowl species. With climate change bringing record high temperatures, one begins to wonder if this will become the new norm, along with the absence of northern winter finches.

Headliner birds this winter included the state's second record of Crested Caracara, a potential second record of Mexican Duck, and the seventh record of Harlequin Duck. The caracara was the first chaseable record in the state and it was enjoyed by many observers over its two week stay. The potential Mexican Duck that

many went to see at the same time was not accepted by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (NOURC). A rather young species on an evolutionary timescale, Mexican Duck frequently hybridizes with Mallards, and there is still research to be done to determine what level of Mallard-like traits is acceptable to call a bird a countable Mexican Duck. With zero DNA samples north of New Mexico, this is difficult to determine for these northerly birds.

ABBREVIATIONS

Most county names are no longer abbreviated but instead *italicized* to help with readability. The following abbreviations are still used.

LM: Lake McConaughy, *Keith*

LO: Lake Ogallala, *Keith*

m. obs.: multiple observers

NOURC: Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

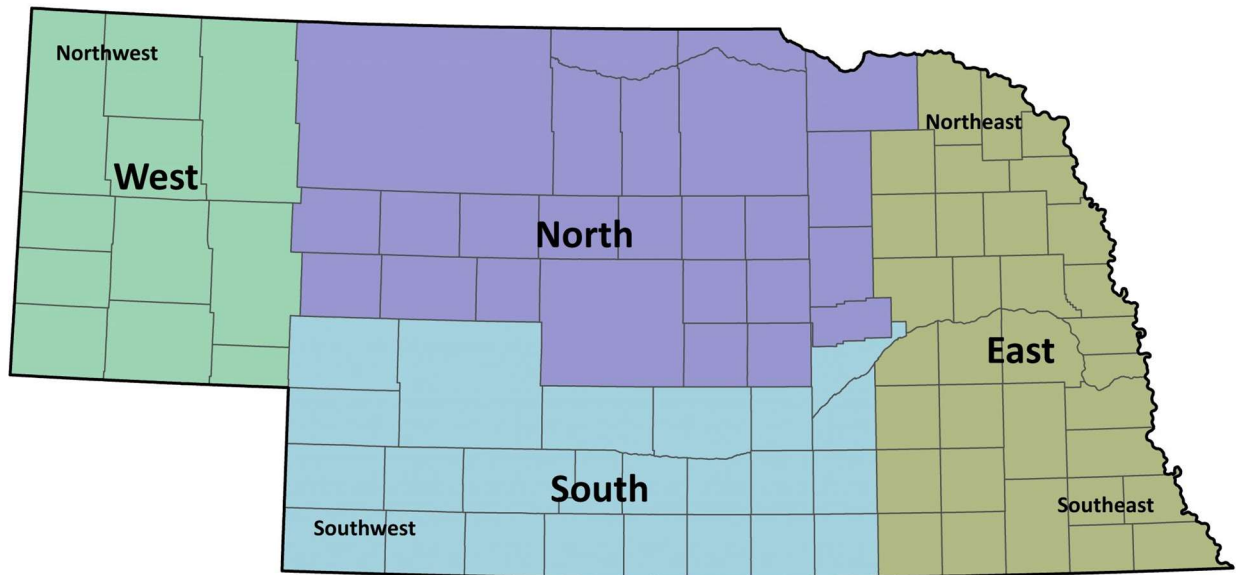
RA: Recreation Area

SP: State Park

SRA: State Recreation Area

WMA: Wildlife Management Area

WTP: Water Treatment Plant



SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Snow Goose: A good western tally was 27,000+ at Swanson Reservoir, *Hitchcock*, 2 Jan (Steven Mlodinow).

Snow Goose x Greater White-fronted Goose (hybrid): The third Nebraska record was found in *Douglas*, 1 Jan (Sam Manning)

Snow Goose x Canada Goose (hybrid): The fourth Nebraska record was found in *Washington*, 24 Feb (Eric Bents).

Ross's Goose: Best fall tally was an estimated 3000 at Swanson Reservoir, *Hitchcock*, 2 Dec (Steven Mlodinow).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Routine reports.

Graylag Goose (Domestic type): Found at a new location (Lake Wakonda, *Cass*), 14 Feb (Jason St. Sauver).

Cackling Goose: A record fall count was an impressive 52,000 tallied at Lake Minatare, *Scotts Bluff* on 12 Dec (Steven Mlodinow). All fall high counts are from Lake Minatare.

Canada Goose: Routine reports.

Trumpeter Swan: It was a good winter for swans with two new high counts: 561 tallied at Lovitt Lake, *Logan* (Boni Edwards), and 336 tallied near Valley, *Douglas* (Eric Bents). Wintering numbers of this species continue to increase.

Tundra Swan: Scarce but routine reports concentrated in the eastern Platte River Valley.

Wood Duck: Nearly 200 birds tallied over the winter including an impressive 117 in a pond near Max, *Dundy*, Dec 2 (Steven Mlodinow). Perhaps some tardy migrants, with the expected last fall dates Dec 3. Another bird was northerly 17 Jan–1 Feb at Tahazouka Park, *Madison* (Scott Buss, Caleb Strand).

Blue-winged Teal: One bird was late, photographed by Greg Courtney in Ogallala, *Keith*, 26–27 Dec. There are only five records from January through early February.

Cinnamon Teal: The third earliest record was photographed in North Platte, *Lincoln*, 25 Feb (Laverne James).

Northern Shoveler: One of only four northerly midwinter records, a group of four was found in *Cherry*, 22 Dec (Greg Courtney). A fifth midwinter bird was at Ord WTP, *Valley* 12–26 Feb (Rita Cunha).

Eurasian Wigeon x American Wigeon (hybrid): The seventh state record was found at Scottsbluff WTP, *Scotts Bluff* 23 Dec (Steven Mlodinow).

Mexican Duck: A bird reported on 18 Nov in *Scotts Bluff* (Steven Mlodinow) was not accepted (IV) by the NOURC. The observer's description follows: "Male. I did not push for more photos, not wanting to flush [the] bird. The more distant photo is to show the bird going away (along with some birds nearby) to show the lack of white on the tail better than side-on view. The bird's cheek did look a bit buffy much of the time, but it was finally stippled throughout, unlike a MODU, but not as heavily marked as ABDU. The bill was entirely yellow or tinged with a bit of olive. The upper and under tail coverts were both mottled, not solidly black as in many MALL x MEDU hybrids. The tail was brown and lacked curled central tail feathers." This report joins 5 other unaccepted reports, see BONO for more details.

Mallard x Mexican Duck (hybrid): Another bird first assumed to be the same bird from Nov 18, but now thought to be distinct (pictured below), was seen 28 Nov–13 Dec (Steven Mlodinow, m.ob.) in a Highway 26 pond, *Scotts Bluff*. This was also not accepted by the NOURC (VI) due to an upturned tail feather indicating possible hybridization. Hybrids, first-year male MEDU, and older female MEDU can show some Mallard-like traits, so determining exactly what that bird was is impossible without DNA testing, but it was most likely a hybrid.



Mallard x Mexican Duck (hybrid) ([ML646675733](#)), Mary Clausen. This bird was voted class VI by NOURC due to the upturned tail feather suggesting hybridization.

American Black Duck: A continuing bird found 30 Nov, was in *Douglas* 1–6 Dec (Sam Manning, m. obs.).

Green-winged Teal: 86 birds were tallied wintering in the north at four locations. There are only eight previous northerly wintering records (20 Dec–8 Feb).

Canvasback: A good count of 150 was at LO 12 Jan (David Cunningham).

Redhead: A good count of 250 was at LO 12 Jan (David Cunningham).

Ring-necked Duck: 13 birds were present at a new wintering area, Ta-ha-Zouka Park in *Madison* (Jason Thiele). 250 at LO was a good count 12 Jan (David Cunningham).

Greater Scaup: Routine reports.

Lesser Scaup: Routine reports.

Harlequin Duck: Seventh state record was found at Mallard Landing, *Douglas*, 4 Jan (Steven Mlodinow) pending a vote by NOURC, but distant photos are diagnostic.

Surf Scoter: Routine reports.

Black Scoter: A late bird was present at LO 26–27 Dec (Greg Courtney, Joel G. Jorgensen).

Long-tailed Duck: There was a good showing in December, with 14 individual birds observed statewide 2–29 Dec (m. obs.). None were reported Jan-Feb.

Bufflehead: Rare in Jan away from LO, one bird was present at Pony Lake, *Buffalo* 10–15 Jan (Barbara Brown, Cody McGregor).

Common Goldeneye: A good (but expected) tally was 800 at Gavin's Point Dam, *Cedar* and *Knox*, 11 Dec and 5 Jan (Roger Dietrich, Jason Thiele).

Common Goldeneye x Barrow's Goldeneye: A male was showing well 5 Jan–26 Feb at Walnut Creek RA in *Sarpy* (m. obs.).



Common x Barrow's Goldeneye ([ML648328213](#)), Hannah Ewald

Barrow's Goldeneye: The only winter record was a female in Max, *Dundy*, 19 Dec (Steven Mlodinow). This represents the only westerly fall record away from the North Platte River Valley.

Hooded Merganser: One was northerly 12 Jan in *Cherry* (Greg Hesse).

Common Merganser: A flock of 6500, likely early migrants, was at Harlan County Reservoir, *Harlan* on 19 Jan (Eugene Huryn, Jacob C. Cooper). Counts of 1000 on 15 Jan and 800 on 16 Dec suggest that 800–1000 wintered on the reservoir.

Red-breasted Merganser: Routine reports.

Ruddy Duck: Routine reports

Northern Bobwhite: Routine reports.

Wild Turkey: A large single flock of 200 was at Ionia Cemetery, *Dixon*, 7 Feb (Bill Huser, Rich Huser, Ed Brogie).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Routine reports.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Routine reports.

Gray Partridge: No reports. There were only 2 reports in 2025.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Routine reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: The sixth midwinter record away from *Keith* was at Highway 6 and Pflug Rd, *Sarpy*, 9 Jan (David Cunningham).

Red-necked Grebe: 2–7 birds were at LM, 26–29 Dec (Joel G. Jorgensen, Greg Courtney, Steven Mlodinow), with a record high count of seven on 27 Dec. LM is becoming a regular location for this species, but the last dates are 2 Jan. There is only one record of overwintering.

Eared Grebe: The fourth latest bird on record was present at LO, 6–29 Dec (Eugene Huryn, Steven Mlodinow, m. obs.).

Rock Pigeon: The second and third highest non-CBC counts were recorded; 1250 near Lincoln, *Lancaster*, 3 Feb (Jacob C. Cooper, Caroline Cooper), and 1010 at Kea WMA, *Buffalo* 21 Dec (Jacob C. Cooper, Peggy Huss, Sawyer Therrien).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Third highest non-CBC tally was 705 in Benkelman, *Dundy*, 19 Dec (Steven Mlodinow).

Mourning Dove: Less than annual mid-winter in the northern Panhandle, three reports were unusual. 18 Dec near Alliance, *Box Butte* (Heidi Edmonson, Finn Ward), 22 Dec at Metcalf WMA, *Sheridan* (Jaxson Craiglow), and 25 Jan in Alliance, *Box Butte* (Jim Coogan).

Sandhill Crane: Record wintering numbers of 40,000 were tallied at Crane Trust, *Hall*, this winter by Matt Fong. 50,000 birds were present on 16 Feb, and 116,000 on 23 Feb.

Killdeer: A rare midwinter easterly record was a bird at Little Salt Fork Marsh, *Lancaster*, 25 Jan (Tom Labeledz).

American Woodcock: One bird was early at Wood Duck WMA, *Stanton*, 26 Feb (Jason Thiele).

Wilson's Snipe: Rare northerly in the winter was the fifth Jan-Feb record near Nenzel, *Cherry*, 12 Jan (Greg Hesse).

Greater Yellowlegs: Less than annual midwinter (5 Dec–25 Feb), there were four reports; 9 Dec at LO (Chris Wood), 17 Dec in North Platte, *Lincoln* (Boni Edwards, Christine Nelson), 22 Dec in *Cherry* (Greg Hesse), and 6 Jan in North Platte, *Lincoln* (Boni Edwards).

Bonaparte's Gull: Three of the four winter records (Jan–Feb) were this winter. The first Feb record was at Goose Lake WMA, *Holt*, 14 Feb (Matt Shurtliff). Another was at LO 12 Jan (David Cunningham), and a third was at Harlan County Reservoir, *Harlan* on 15 Jan (Eugene Huryn, Tommy Childers).

Franklin's Gull: One was early at Branched Oak Lake, *Lancaster* on 16 Feb (David Cunningham).

Short-billed Gull: Less than annual away from LM, one was present at the Alma WTP, *Harlan*, 15 Dec–21 Jan (Joel G. Jorgensen, m. obs.)

Ring-billed Gull: Routine reports.

American Herring Gull: Routine reports.

California Gull: Routine reports.

Iceland Gull (Kumlien's): The eighth Kumlien's since 2015 was at LM, 15 Feb (Tobin Brown).

Iceland Gull (Thayer's): Rare away from *Keith*, an immature Thayer's was at Oak Lake Park, *Lancaster*, 24 Feb (Em Stephen).



Iceland Gull (Kumlien's) ([ML651025557](#)), Tobin Brown

Lesser Black-backed Gull: A good tally of 26 at LM on 8 Dec consisted of “almost all” adults and no first cycles (Steven Mlodinow).

Glaucous Gull: Routine reports.

Red-throated Loon: A late juvenile was at Swanson Reservoir, *Hitchcock*, 2 Dec (Steven Mlodinow).

American White Pelican: Rare away from regular wintering locations was a bird at North Loup SRA, *Howard*, 12 Jan (Randy Skaggs, Rita Cunha).

Great Blue Heron: Second midwinter north record was at Oak View Park, *Knox*, 20 Jan (Deb Hansen).

Osprey: A late bird was in Kearney, *Buffalo*, 6 Dec (Caroline Cooper).

Golden Eagle: Rare away from the west was an adult at a prairie dog town in *Buffalo*, 8 Feb (Eugene Huryn, Cody McGregor).

Northern Harrier: Routine reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Routine reports.

Cooper's Hawk: Routine reports.

American Goshawk: Two reports were from *Scotts Bluff*; the first, 15 Dec in the Wildcat Hills, was captured eating a rabbit by a trail camera (Colin Croft), and the second was at Wildcat Hills SRA, 9 Feb (Olivia DaRugna). Both records perhaps pertain to the same juvenile bird.



American Goshawk ([ML650594036](#)), Olivia DaRugna

Bald Eagle: Routine reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: A westerly bird was at Bader Park, *Merrick*, 26 Dec-20 Jan (Steve Morris, m. obs.). In total 16 reports occurred around the state, mostly in the southeast. The best count was three at Pawnee Lake SRA, *Lancaster*, which is becoming a reliable spot for them.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Borealis*): Routine reports.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Harlan's*): Routine reports

Red-tailed Hawk (*Krider's*): Sixth midwinter record was in Newcastle, *Dixon*, 11 Jan (Rich and Bill Huser, Ed Brogie). Seventh midwinter record was in Hubbard, *Dakota*, 7 Feb (Rich and Bill Huser).

Red-tailed Hawk (*abieticola*): The fourth west/west-central record was in Monument Valley, *Scotts Bluff*, on 9 Dec (Chris Wood).

Rough-legged Hawk: Routine reports.

Ferruginous Hawk: Routine reports.

Eastern Screech-Owl: Routine reports.

Great Horned Owl: Routine reports.

Snowy Owl: None reported. Only one report last winter.

Barred Owl: Routine reports.

Long-eared Owl: Routine reports.

Short-eared Owl: A good statewide tally was 51. The peak count was eight at Eppley Airfield, *Douglas*, in January (David Cunningham, m. obs.).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Routine reports.

Belted Kingfisher: Routine reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Rare in the Pine Ridge, one bird was seen on Camp Norwesca Rd., *Dawes*, 12 Dec (Tobin Brown, Keegan Brown, Eugene Huryn).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A westerly bird was found in Valentine, *Cherry*, 27-28 Feb (Terry and Marie Pflugrad). Another westerly bird (or birds) was present at Swanson Reservoir, *Hitchcock* on 2 Dec, 2 Jan, and 3 Feb (Steven Mlodinow).

Downy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Eastern*): Routine reports.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Rocky Mts.*): Rare but being reported more often was a Rocky Mts. subspecies bird in Carter Canyon, *Scotts Bluff*, 14 Dec (Tobin Brown, Keegan Brown, Eugene Huryn).

Northern (*Yellow-shafter*) Flicker: Routine reports.

Northern (*Red-shafted x Yellow-shafted hybrid*) Flicker: Routine reports

Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker: At least four confirmed reports of Red-shafted flickers came from the east, with four other suggestive reports, but some likely intergrades.

Pileated Woodpecker: It was a good winter for Pileated Woodpecker expansion, with a first record in *Harlan*, 16 Dec (Joel G. Jorgensen, Andrew Furman), two westerly birds in *Saunders*, 16 Dec (Jane Hollst, m. obs.), and a first for Oak Glen WMA, *Seward*, 24 Dec (Matt Beisel).

Crested Caracara: The state's second record was found on Road 207 in *Garden*, Dec 6 (Tobin Brown, Keegan Brown, Eugene Huryn). The bird continued through Dec 15 (m. obs.). It was an especially good winter for northerly vagrant caracaras with records in Kansas, Michigan, Maryland, and Virginia.



Crested Caracara ([ML646993010](#)), Jonathan Nikkila

American Kestrel: Routine reports.

Merlin: Wintering reports continue to increase, with 16 birds reported statewide.

Peregrine Falcon: Routine reports.

Prairie Falcon: Routine reports.

Northern Shrike: Routine reports.

Pinyon Jay: No reports this winter. The last report was Apr 2025.

Blue Jay: Routine reports.

Black-billed Magpie: Several reports arrived away from the panhandle. One bird was in Comstock, *Valley*, 30 Jan (T.J. Walker). Four were seen in Naper, *Boyd*, 25 Dec (Matt Shurtliff). The first *Holt* record was near the Niobrara River 3 Jan (Jenny Prenosil). A continuing small group spent most of the winter in *Madison* (Scott Buss, Jason Thiele).

American Crow: A good tally of 3000 was near Burwell, *Loup*, 3 Jan (Robin Harding, Rita Cunha).

Common Raven: A total of eight reports, all in *Sioux* near where the first breeding record in over 100 years was documented last summer.

Black-capped Chickadee: Routine reports.

Mountain Chickadee: No reports this winter or last winter.

Tufted Titmouse: The only report away from the Missouri River was at Stagecoach Lake, *Lancaster*, 27-28 Feb (Tom Gannon, Jeremiah Ourada).

Horned Lark: Routine reports.

Tree Swallow: The third February record was an early bird on Reservoir Rd., *Harlan*, 28 Feb (Eugene Huryn).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Rare in the north in midwinter and spring (20 Jan–28 Apr), 2 birds were found at Pine Glen WMA, *Brown*, 8 Feb (Greg Hesse).

Cedar Waxwing: A good winter count was 250 at Mormon Island SRA, *Hall*, 14 Feb (Tobin Brown).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Routine reports.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Numbers statewide were moderate to low, especially in the Pine Ridge.

White-breasted Nuthatch: Sixth winter *nelsoni* away from the Pine Ridge was at LO, 8 Dec (Steven Mlodinow). Rare in the Pine Ridge, four *carolinensis* (Eastern) were present at Chadron Creek Ranch, *Dawes*, 12 Dec (Tobin Brown, Keegan Brown, Eugene Huryn) as well as five at Metcalf WMA, *Sheridan*, on the same day (Jaxson and Caleb Craiglow). Forty on the River's Edge Trail, *Harlan*, 6 Dec was a good winter tally (Connor Harrison).

Pygmy Nuthatch: A group of five was at Pine Bluffs, *Kimball*, 7 Dec, possibly a continuing establishing population (Michael Willison, Mike Nelson).

Brown Creeper: Routine reports.

Carolina Wren: The third and fourth winter records west of *Harlan* were found by Robin Harding; 31 Dec at Barnett Park, *Red Willow*, and 28 Feb on the Medicine Creek Trail, *Furnas*.

Winter Wren: The third *Scotts Bluff* winter record was in Carter Canyon, 14 Dec (Tobin Brown, Keegan Brown, Eugene Huryn). Followed shortly by the fourth county record at the Gering Cemetery, 3 Feb (Stephen Brenner). Less than annual midwinter in the north, two birds were present 16 Dec–3 Jan at Anderson Bridge WMA, *Cherry* (Greg Hesse).

Brown Thrasher: Present since 27 Nov was a bird at a ranch in *Grant*, 2 Dec (Glenda Burgess).

European Starling: The third highest winter count was 8000 in *Hall*, 4 Jan (Rita Flohr).

Eastern Bluebird: An early presumed migrant was at Wildcat Hills SRA, *Scotts Bluff*, 26 Feb (Olivia DaRugna).

Mountain Bluebird: A late bird was at Buffalo Creek WMA, *Banner*, 22 Dec (Stephen Brenner, Olivia DaRugna). Two early migrants were near Gordon, *Sheridan*, 23 Feb (Jaxson and Caleb Craiglow).

Townsend's Solitaire: Two birds were early in *Seward*, 14 Dec (Sonja Brandt).

Hermit Thrush: Rare away from the Platte River Valley, birds were found at 2 sites at Harlan Co Reservoir; two on 26 Dec (Joel G. Jorgensen, T.J. Walker), and one on 15 Jan (Eugene Huryn, Tommy Childers).

American Robin: Routine reports.

House Sparrow: Routine reports.

American Pipit: A late bird was at Sutherland Reservoir, *Lincoln*, 16 Dec (Mark Brogie, Boni Edwards). An early bird was reported at Harvard WPA, *Clay*, 28 Feb (Paul Dunbar).

Evening Grosbeak: Less than annual, there were three reports this winter. One at Gilbert-Baker WMA, *Sioux*, 13 Dec (Tobin Brown, Keegan Brown, Eugene Huryn), and an impressive 27 at the same location on 3 Jan (Stephen Brenner, Olivia DaRugna, Noelle Grunwald), and one at Buffalo Creek WMA, *Scotts Bluff*, 23 Dec (Steven Mlodinow). All reports were confirmed to be Rocky Mountains type 4, based on recordings of call notes.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch: None reported this fall or winter.

House Finch: Routine reports.

Purple Finch: Routine reports.

Cassin's Finch: None reported this fall or winter. Only one reported last winter.

Redpoll: Four documented reports: One or two in *Knox*, 31 Dec–14 Feb (Deb Hansen), one in *Loup*, 3 Jan (T.J. Walker), two in *Cherry*, 8 Jan (Terry and Marie Pflugrad), and one at Fontenelle Forest, *Sarpy*, 28 Feb (Keegan Brown, David Cunningham).

Red Crossbill: Most reports were on the Pine Ridge, with only two reports at Wildcat Hills, and four reports elsewhere. Eighteen were at Steer Creek Campground, *Cherry*, 8 Jan. Other reports were of one or two birds in *Buffalo*, *Dixon*, and *Lancaster*.

Pine Siskin: Routine reports.

Lesser Goldfinch: The 18th winter record was found during the Scotts Bluff CBC on Robideaux Rd, *Scotts Bluff*, 14 Dec (Tobin Brown, Keegan Brown, Eugene Huryn).

American Goldfinch: The second highest winter tally was 350 at Branched Oak Lake, *Lancaster*, 22 Dec (Tobin Brown).

Lapland Longspur: Routine reports.

Smith's Longspur: A record high count of 144 was a flock of early migrants at Harvard WPA, *Clay*, 28 Feb (Paul Dunbar). There have been no records of over-wintering yet, but it's something to look out for with warmer weather.

Snow Bunting: Average to good numbers statewide, with 45 being the best count near Tekamah, *Burt*, 8 Dec (Tim Houghton).

Clay-colored Sparrow: The first Dec record for the state was in Kearney, *Buffalo*, Dec 21 (Cody and Kayla McGregor).

Field Sparrow: With only twelve previous winter records in Jan, this year we saw four: 5-9 Jan at Mahoney SP, *Cass* (Larry Einemann, John Vrtiska), 9 Jan at Two Rivers SP, *Douglas* (Eric Bents), 25 Jan at Pawnee Lake SRA, *Lancaster*, (David Peaslee), and 29 Jan in *Red Willow* (Bill Flack).

Fox Sparrow: This winter saw the second highest statewide tally with 127 (151 in 2021–2022). One bird was westerly at Swanson Reservoir, *Hitchcock*, 3 Dec (Steven Mlodinow).

American Tree Sparrow: Routine reports.

Dark-eyed Junco: Routine reports.

Dark-eyed Junco (Pink-sided): This winter saw five records in the east, with one photographed in Lincoln, *Lancaster* 7 Dec (Tobin Brown). Four other sight records in the east 8 Dec–30 Jan (m. obs.), with only 22 previous records of this traditionally western subspecies.

White-crowned Sparrow: With nine previous Jan-Mar records in the north, this winter saw nine more. The third midwinter record of *leucophrys* in the east was in *Wayne*, 9 Dec–21 Feb (Caleb Strand). A record high count of 259 was tallied at Swanson Reservoir, *Hitchcock*, 3 Feb (Steven Mlodinow).

Harris's Sparrow: Notable northerly reports were a single in *Blaine*, 11 Dec (Bill Flack), six in *Rock*, 23 Jan (Allyson Frank), and one at Smith Falls SP, *Cherry*, 12 Feb (Bill Flack).

White-throated Sparrow: Routine reports.

Song Sparrow: The 19th winter record of *montana* was found at Fort Robinson SP, *Dawes*, 2 Jan (Olivia DaRugna). There were eight other midwinter reports statewide; the prior total was 11.

Swamp Sparrow: One was late at Fort Robinson SP, *Dawes*, 2 Jan (Stephen Brenner, Olivia DaRugna). Rare in winter in the northeast, one was at Buckskin Hills WMA, *Dixon*, 28 Feb (Jerry Probst).

Eastern Meadowlark: A suspected early migrant was singing at Burchard WMA, *Pawnee*, 8 Feb (Brian Peterson).

Western Meadowlark: Routine reports.

Red-winged Blackbird: Routine reports.

Brown-headed Cowbird: This year saw four winter records in the north where there were previously only six: four in *Logan*, 22 Dec (Boni Edwards), one in *Howard*, 5 Jan (Rita Flohr), one in *Valley*, 15 Feb (Rita Cunha), and 20 in *Howard*, 24 Feb (Steve Morris).

Rusty Blackbird: Routine reports.

Brewer's Blackbird: Routine reports.

Common Grackle: Routine reports.

Great-tailed Grackle: The eighth midwinter record north of the Platte River valleys was a flock of 20 in Burwell, *Garfield*, 3 Jan (Rita Cunha).

Orange-crowned Warbler: The sixth January record was a bird present since the fall in *Douglas*, 30 Jan (Thomas Neneman, David Cunningham). The seventh January record was in Kearney, *Buffalo*, 22 Jan (Tommy Childers).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: This winter saw nine records north and west, only 15 previously. 3 Dec in *Scotts Bluff* (Stephen Brenner), 25 Dec in *Wayne* (Caleb Strand), 26–27 Dec in *Cherry* (Greg Hesse), 22 Dec in *Logan* (Boni Edwards), 23–24 Dec in *Knox* (Deb Hansen), 3 Jan in *Loup* (Dave Heidt), 22 Jan in *Greeley* (Rita Cunha), and 9–12 Jan and 9 Feb in *Knox* (Deb Hansen).

Northern Cardinal: Routine reports.

Mass Mortality of Franklin's Gulls (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) in a Hailstorm

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Migratory birds often encounter adverse weather conditions as they travel. These conditions may result in mass mortality when particularly unfavorable (Newton 2007). Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) is a small gull species that winters along the Pacific Coast of South America and migrates through the Central Flyway of North America from March–May before migrating south in September–November during which time they may be found in large flocks (up to 3,000,000 individuals; Burger and Gochfeld 2020). Herein, I report on mass mortality of Franklin's Gulls from a hailstorm.

On 19 September 2025 at ~1515, a large hailstorm fell over south-central Nebraska and north-central Kansas (Fig. 1). On 23 and 24 September 2025, T. Schneurle and T. and L. Post observed ~200 dead Franklin's Gulls in an upland grassland 5 km S, 5.3 km E of Naponee, Nebraska (Fig. 2; 40.0293, -99.0779; WGS 84). The dead gulls were concentrated in a small area suggesting they were downed simultaneously in flight or were grounded prior to the hail and killed in the same location.

Hailstorm mortality of Franklin's Gulls has been previously noted during fall migration in Oklahoma (Heflebower and Klett 1980), and their populations may be particularly vulnerable to hailstorms during this time as they create locally large aggregations (Burger and Gochfeld 2020). Hailstorms are a well-known cause of mass mortality in birds in the Central Flyway (Jones 1952, Smith and Webster 1955, Higgins and Johnson 1978, Heflebower and Klett 1980, Hall and Harvey 2007) and large hailstorms may result in greater losses than were observed in this case (Smith and Webster 1955, Narwade et al. 2014). The incidence and intensity of hailstorms may increase with climatic change (Trapp et al. 2019) and reporting on mass mortality resulting from them may aid in understanding their threat to bird populations.

Acknowledgments

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Figure 1. Damage from a large hailstorm at a residence in Naponee, NE on 19 September 2025, 6.1 km NW of where ~200 Franklin's Gulls (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) were killed. The left image is of a porch completely covered in downed branches. Photos by T. Post.



Figure 2. Franklin's Gulls (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) scattered across an upland prairie on 23 and 24 September 2025 following a hailstorm on 19 September 2025. Observers estimated about 200 birds were killed. Photos by T. Schneurle and T. Post.

2025-2026 Nebraska Christmas Bird Counts

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For the third consecutive year, all twenty Nebraska Christmas Bird Counts were conducted during the 2025-2026 season. Except for the Ponca and Branched Oak counts on December 14, the weather was unusually warm with the high temperature averaging 48F and the low temperature averaging 23F. Consequently, most of the counts had an above normal amount of open water. In addition to being mild, no precipitation was reported for any of the counts.

Lake McConaughy had the highest number of species (99), but the total number of species (142) for all counts was well below the highest total (153) from last year. Harlan County had the highest number of individuals (87,343) which included 66,826 geese and 12,811 Mallards. The total number of individuals (364,680) was the third highest. The highest count (652,936) was set in 1977 when 502,286 Red-winged Blackbirds were counted with an estimated 500,000 at North Platte.

There were 25 species counted in just one circle each and 13 of those were single birds. Fourteen species were counted in all twenty circles. Two species tied previous high counts and 20 set new highs. No new species were reported this year.

Twenty-eight species of Anseriformes were found on count days. Ross's Goose had the second highest count (5,002) with 4,056 found at Harlan County. The high count for Ross's is 6,304 from 2016. Cackling Geese were found in 15 circles for a new high count of 13,343. The count of 8,062 from Scottsbluff alone topped the previous high count of 7,689 from 2016. Both Kearney and Scottsbluff had a much higher percentage of Cacklers than Canadas. Continuing to increase in numbers, Trumpeter Swans were counted in ten circles with a new high count of 965 birds. The old high count of 805 was set in 2022.

Although dabbling ducks were present in expected numbers, the diving ducks were more interesting. The count of 163 Redheads is the best since 2014 when 209 were counted. The high count of 327 is from 2011. The total of 735 Ring-necked Ducks topped the old high count of 518 from last year. Both Scaup species had a good year with the bulk of them found at Lake McConaughy. The count of 58 Greater Scaup is the highest since 86 were found in 2015. The high count for this species is 123 from 2004. The count of 581 Lesser Scaup is the best count since 583 were counted in 2004. The high for this species is 614 from 2002. As was the case last year, a lone Black Scoter was found at Lake McConaughy, but this marks only the sixth time that they have been found. All have been singles. Omaha came up with 137 Hooded Merganser which was a large portion of the new high count of 231 which tops the old high count of 166 from last year.

Galliform numbers were unremarkable.

Five species of Grebes were found at Lake McConaughy, accounting for all of this year's grebes except for a single Pied-billed Grebe at Calamus. Although Horned Grebe was missed, Red-necked Grebes tied with last year's high count of seven.

Apart from Rock Pigeons, Columbiform numbers were on the downside. A single White-winged Dove found at Scottsbluff in 2005 marked the first appearance for this species. They were not found again till 2014 when three of them were found, also at Scottsbluff. After that they have been counted every year until they were missed this season. Mourning Doves had their lowest count in a decade.

The 12 Virginia Rails found at Lake McConaughy ties with 2024 and 2020 for the second highest count behind the 17 from 2023. In a continuing trend, Sandhill Cranes remained at Grand Island with a record number of 31,000. At least 17,000 have been around there for the last two years. To date, none have been observed at Kearney. Greater Yellowlegs made their seventh appearance on a Nebraska count. The four birds found at North Platte are the second-best count, with the highest being seven in 2023. Prior to that, the others have been singles dating back to 1993.

Gull diversity was low at only seven species, but two of them were present in good numbers. Ring-billed Gulls had their second highest count (8,853) and were present in eight circles. Most were found at Harlan County and Lake McConaughy with totals of 1520 and 7,000 respectively. The high count for Ring-bills is 10,371 from 1999. All 36 of the Lesser Black-backed Gull were counted at Lake McConaughy topping the old high of 20 from 2023. There were single Short-billed Gulls at Harlan County and Lake McConaughy tying several other years for second best count. The high count for them is 3 from 2011.

Another water dependent species, Great Blue Heron, was found in 14 circles. Its count of 57 is only one shy of the high count of 58 from 2011.

Diurnal raptors were well represented. Northern Harriers were found in every circle except for the Lower Platte count and had their third highest count (146). The high count for Harriers is 177 from 2018. The two common Accipiters had a good showing. Sharp-shinned Hawks were present in 16 circles with a total of 48 birds beating the old high of 42 from 2017. Their larger cousins, Cooper's Hawk, totaled 53 birds which is second only to 2023's total of 61. With ample open water for fishing, Bald Eagles were found in every circle except Crawford setting a new high count of 674. The old high count was 620 from 2018. The previous high count for Ferruginous Hawks had been 12 from both 2024 and 1996, but with the help of 8 birds found at Lake McConaughy, this year's count of 13 set a new high.

The only noteworthy nocturnal raptor was the count of 54 Eastern Screech Owls. This was largely due the effort put forth by the Kearney count which came up with 22 birds. This is the best count for this species since 59 were counted in 1994. The all-time high count of 63 is from 1987.

Eighteen circles contributed to the total of 206 Hairy Woodpeckers, just behind last year's count of 216. Northern Flickers continue to do well and were found in all circles for a new high count of 940, besting the old high count of 845 from 2023. Pileated Woodpeckers (15) were found in the four Missouri River circles plus Ames on the Platte and for the first time at Harlan County on the Republican. The high count for this species is 34 from 2022.

Falcons had a great year. Merlin set a new high-count of 39 with birds counted in every circle but Grand Island, Harrison and Indian Cave. The previous high of 26 was from 2017. Somewhat surprising for the location was the lone Peregrine Falcon from the Beaver Valley circle. Singles of this species have been found several times but the high count of two goes back to 2011, 1989 and 1965. Prairie Falcon also made a good showing a total of 14 birds, which is slightly behind the high count of 15 from 2018.

Black-billed Magpies were found in the expected five circles with a total of 40 birds. While still low, the count of 40 is at least stable. A single Common Raven was found at Harrison marking this bird's third straight appearance and fourth overall. The high-count for Ravens is four from 2023.

Red-breasted Nuthatches had a good year with birds present in all circles but Beaver Valley, setting a new high count of 252. The previous high 194 was set in 2007. Brown Creepers were found in 16 circles marking a new high count of 137 just bettering the old high of 132 from last year. Winter Wren also put in a new high count, 21, just beating the old high of 20 from 2023. Single Gray Catbirds were found at Ames, Branched Oak and Calamus, setting a new high count of 3, and beating the old high of 2 from 2002. There have been singles of this species six other years.

Evening Grosbeaks used to be much more common on counts than they are today. The high count of 173 is from 1977. They were reported four times in the 1960's, seven times plus two count week birds in the 1970's, and 7 times plus a count week bird in the 1980's. But things changed after 59 were found in 1989. None were found for the next thirty years until two were found at Crawford in 2019. Singles were found in 2022 at Scottsbluff and again in 2024 at Indian Cave. So, the 27 Evening Grosbeaks at Harrison this year is very surprising and encouraging.

House Finches and Red Crossbills were also abundant. The count of 1385 House Finches is just behind the second highest count of 1388 from last year. The high count of 1803 is from 2013. Red Crossbills set a new high count of 190, most of which were found in the three Panhandle circles. In addition, six were found at DeSoto and one at Kearney. The previous high count was 161 from 2023.

Also in the Panhandle, a single Lesser Goldfinch was found at Scottsbluff. The only other occurrence of this species is when two were found at Lake McConaughy in 2020.

The highlight of the sparrow department was the two Clay-colored Sparrows found at Kearney. This marked only the fourth time this species has been found with the high count being 6 from 1970. Fox Sparrows were found in 9 circles with the total of 43 being the third best count behind 44 in 2012 and 92 in 2021. With a total of 7,457 birds, Dark-eyed Junco had the best count since the high count 11,489 in 2007.

White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were present in record numbers. A new high of 268 for White-throated was largely due to the 111 of them being found at DeSoto. Their previous high count was 154 birds from 2023. Similarly, Scottsbluff contributed 392 White-crowned to the new high count of 778 birds. The old high count was 571 from 2015.

Although Icterid numbers were unremarkable, two warbler species were present. Beginning in 1996, single Orange-crowned Warblers had been found 5 times. This year Omaha and Lake McConaughy each had one for a new high count of two.

Yellow-rumped Warblers were counted in 12 circles with Kearney producing 52 birds. The overall total of 179 topped the old high of 149 from 2017.

2025-2026 CBC Participants

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2025-2026 CBC Site Data

					Total				
					Party	Low	High		
	Date	Species	Individuals	Observers	Hours	Temp	Temp	Sky	Precip
Ames	16 Dec	69	8,772	24	66	28	53	clear	none
Beaver Valley	30 Dec	41	3,324	7	18	18	50	clear	none
Branched Oak-Seward	14 Dec	78	7,112	47	81	0	25	clear	none
Calamus-Loup	1 Jan	66	22,074	7	27	22	55	foggy	none
Crawford	2 Jan	39	1,859	5	18	38	42	cloudy	none
DeSoto-Boyer	20 Dec	79	22,135	42	116	27	44	pt cloudy	none
Ft. Niobrara	16 Dec	43	3,203	8	17	34	66	pt cloudy	none
Grand Island	20 Dec	55	36,504	20	NA	27	52	pt cloudy	none
Harlan Co.	16 Dec	93	87,344	7	47	28	60	clear	none
Harrison	3 Jan	37	551	4	11	30	59	clear	none
Indian Cave	18 Dec	54	2,109	12	39	31	44	NA	NA
Kearney	21 Dec	80	26,212	16	53	32	43	clear	none
Lake McConaughy	27 Dec	99	27,261	4	25	24	66	pt cloudy	none
Lincoln	20 Dec	76	17,384	110	266	38	48	pt clear	none
Lower Platte River	5 Jan	82	17,811	11	67	25	55	pt cloudy	none
Norfolk	20 Dec	67	9,948	18	NA	20	38	pt cloudy	none
North Platte	17 Dec	77	19,097	12	36	11	57	pt cloudy	none
Omaha	14 Dec	72	27,749	23	52	19	46	pt clear	none
Ponca S.P.	14 Dec	58	2,908	21	31	-9	20	pt cloudy	none
Scottsbluff	14 Dec	70	21,323	10	31	14	42	foggy	none
		142	364,680						

2025-26 CBC Data

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak Lake	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Ft. Niobrara	Grand Island	Harlan Co.	Harrison	Indian Cave
Snow Goose	147		30	11		689	1	1	51,010		340
Ross's Goose	3		1						4,056		
Gr White-fronted Goose	3			9		950		3	8		
Cackling Goose	55			140		58		122	491		30
Canada Goose	3,134		258	9,450		3,905	1,601	684	11,261	1	160
Cackling/Canada Goose											
Trumpeter Swan	11		21	152		311	43				
Tundra Swan											
Wood Duck	2							2			1
Northern Shoveler						21		10	13		
Blue-winged Teal											
Gadwall			26			1			22		
American Wigeon	1	1				1		2	15		
Mallard	145	781	260	3,476	15	8,222	397	228	12,811		355
Northern Pintail			1			1			15		
Mallard x N. Pintail											
Green-winged Teal	3	10	8	41		3	20		11		1
Canvasback											
Redhead								8	2		
Ring-necked Duck						4	40				
Greater Scaup									3		
Lesser Scaup									7		
scaup sp							40				
Black Scoter											
Long-tailed Duck											
Bufflehead									5		
Common Goldeneye	4			3		23	20	13	15		
Hooded Merganser			1	13		1		1	6		
Common Merganser			329	1,416		61	5		806		10
Red-breasted Merganser									4		
Ruddy Duck									1		
duck sp.	1					303					
Northern Bobwhite			13	7		9			15		2
Wild Turkey	93	54	7	14	68	226	48			7	15
Sharp-tailed Grouse							7				
Greater Prairie-Chicken		48					4				
Ring-necked Pheasant	26	2	4	1		11		6	8		
Pied-billed Grebe				1							

2025-26 CBC Data

	Kearney	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Lower Platte	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Snow Goose	5,168	5,030	14	2,966	13	155	5	100	4	65,684
Ross's Goose	38	653		238		13				5,002
Gr White-fronted Goose	35	1	8	1,331	4	3	55	1	2	2,413
Cackling Goose	2,679	132	145	470	12	884	83	30	8,062	13,393
Canada Goose	1,753	2,717	4,945	5,237	1,630	6,044	7,591	774	4,950	66,095
Cackling/Canada Goose	10								14	24
Trumpeter Swan	8			29		15	373		2	965
Tundra Swan				1						1
Wood Duck	2	2	2			6				17
Northern Shoveler		3	8			32			25	112
Blue -winged Teal		1								1
Gadwall		113	13	30		18	11		14	248
American Wigeon	15	81		17	1	3	2		81	220
Mallard	251	281	930	1,913	73	1,486	741	17	661	33,043
Northern Pintail				11	2	43			12	85
Mallard x N. Pintail									1	1
Green-winged Teal	12	64	77	50		79	2		115	496
Canvasback		158				6			1	165
Redhead		141		7	3	2				163
Ring-necked Duck	33	217	3	83	17	208	3		127	735
Greater Scaup		49		6						58
Lesser Scaup	12	535		7	16	1			3	581
scaup sp							2			42
Black Scoter		1								1
Long-tailed Duck						1			1	2
Bufflehead	1	361					7	13		387
Common Goldeneye	12	120		36	16	68	326	31	121	808
Hooded Merganser		49		12		11	137			231
Common Merganser	7	2,303	48	220	2	72	316	25		5,620
Red-breasted Merganser		15		1						20
Ruddy Duck		13								14
duck sp.	17		14				2			337
Northern Bobwhite	37		25		1			1		110
Wild Turkey	30	55	120	134	43	147	79	54	19	1,213
Sharp-tailed Grouse										7
Greater Prairie-Chicken	35	17				17				121
Ring-necked Pheasant		4	6		42	4	2	20	3	139
Pied-billed Grebe		4								5

2025-26 CBC Data

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak Lake	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Ft. Niobrara	Grand Island	Harlan Co.	Harrison	Indian Cave
Red-necked Grebe											
Eared Grebe											
Western Grebe											
Clark's Grebe											
Rock Pigeon	154	26	31	37	12	85		469	135	2	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	128	73	35	21	56		4	163	34	16	
Mourning Dove	52		6			10		24	1		26
Virginia Rail											
American Coot			20			5		1	7		
Sandhill Crane								31,000			
Killdeer	1			2					2		
Wilson's Snipe									1		
Greater Yellowlegs											
Bonaparte's Gull									1		
Short-billed Gull									1		
Ring-billed Gull			57	115					1,520		
California Gull											
Herring Gull			25	4					48		
Iceland Gull											
Lesser Black-backed Gull											
gull sp.				1							
Double-crested Cormorant			1						12		
Am White Pelican			3	3					6		27
Great Blue Heron	6		1	3		3		2	1		1
Golden Eagle					2					2	
Northern Harrier	6	3	11	7	2	23	5	12	20	1	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	1	5	2	1	3			2		2
Cooper's Hawk	3	2	4		1	2		2	2		4
Accipiter sp.			1			1					
Bald Eagle	42	9	21	69		115	9	14	117	4	37
Red-shouldered Hawk						1					
Red-tailed Hawk	42	26	62	13	4	86	3	19	33	2	21
Borealis			2								
Harlan's			2								
unspecified			58								
Rough-legged Hawk	5		4	3	3	1	3	3		7	
Ferruginous Hawk					1		1			1	
Buteo sp.	2		3			4					

[illegible]

2025-26 CBC Data

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak Lake	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Ft. Niobrara	Grand Island	Harlan Co.	Harrison	Indian Cave
Accipiter sp.	1										
hawk sp.											
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	3	7	1				4	5		
Great Horned Owl	7	4	14	2		4			2		
Barred Owl	5		1			2			1		
Long-eared Owl	2								1		
Short-eared Owl	1										
Northern Saw-whet Owl											
Belted Kingfisher	1	3	2	3	1	2	1	3	3		1
Red-headed Woodpecker	2		1			50					85
Red-bellied Woodpecker	41	2	59	3		133		14	37		67
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1		4	1					2		
Downy Woodpecker	37	9	53	9	14	61	8	19	21	3	17
Hairy Woodpecker	10		30	2	5	35	3	2	11	3	3
Rocky Mtn. subspecies											
Eastern subspecies											
unspecified Hairy Woodp.											
Downy/Hairy Woodpecker			2								
Northern Flicker	53	32	93	28	6	112	25	42	80	4	13
Red-shafted			1			1	4				
Yellow-shafted	52		57		4	111	21			1	13
Red-sh./Yellow-sh.	1										
unspecified			35		2					3	
Pileated Woodpecker	3					4					2
Woodpecker sp.						1					
American Kestrel	8	3	15	2	4	16	2	5	6		8
Merlin	3	1	3	2	2	3	2		1		
Merlin (Prairie race)											
unspecified											
Prairie Falcon			1							3	
Peregrine Falcon		1									
Northern Shrike		2	6	4	4	1			4	1	
Blue Jay	130	9	131	8	8	125	10	11	24	4	71
Black-billed Magpie					22					3	
American Crow	22	48	269	3,985	24	123	26	32	165	17	24
Common Raven										1	
Black-capped Chickadee	31	2	84	15	37	183	50	5	24	19	75
Tufted Titmouse	1					7					32

2025-26 CBC Data

	Kearney	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Lower Platte	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Accipiter sp.										1
hawk sp.	1		3							4
Eastern Screech-Owl	22	3	1	1	1			4	1	54
Great Horned Owl	5	7	9	2	3	2		1	4	66
Barred Owl			3	2	2		5	3		24
Long-eared Owl										3
Short-eared Owl	2	1								4
Northern Saw-whet Owl		1								1
Belted Kingfisher	2	4	8	3	4	2		1	1	45
Red-headed Woodpecker				1			7	3		149
Red-bellied Woodpecker	7	8	107	54	15	5	77	16		645
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				1			2			11
Downy Woodpecker	13	13	145	63	18	4	67	19	22	615
Hairy Woodpecker	4	3	47	20	4		11	8	5	206
Rocky Mtn. subspecies									1	
Eastern subspecies									1	
unspecified Hairy Woodp.									3	
Downy/Hairy Woodpecker										2
Northern Flicker	41	33	146	60	34	15	80	19	24	940
Red-shafted		4								
Yellow-shafted	20	8					17		2	
Red-sh./Yellow-sh.									3	
unspecified	21	21					63		19	
Pileated Woodpecker							4	1		14
Woodpecker sp.										1
American Kestrel	6	20	23	4	8	14	9	1	24	178
Merlin	4	1	2	4	4	1	2	3	1	39
Merlin (Prairie race)	1									
unspecified	3									
Prairie Falcon	1	1	1		2	1			4	14
Peregrine Falcon										1
Northern Shrike	1	5	3	1	1	5		2	1	41
Blue Jay	21	10	407	123	26	7	86	46	79	1,336
Black-billed Magpie		4			3				8	40
American Crow	31	14	123	163	45	99	48	16		5,274
Common Raven										1
Black-capped Chickadee	3		146	73	14	7	120	31	8	927
Tufted Titmouse				11			6			57

2025-26 CBC Data

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak Lake	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Ft. Niobrara	Grand Island	Harlan Co.	Harrison	Indian Cave
Dark-eyed Junco	361	101	1086	99	61	806	85	137	464	11	59
Slate-colored	361		543		12	83	79			4	
Oregon			3		24	5	1			5	
Pink-sided					18		5			1	
White-winged					6						
Gray-headed			2								
Cassiar (cismontanus)											
unspecified			538		1	718				1	
White-crowned Sparrow				5		33			127		6
Gambel's White-crowned											
unspecified											
Harris's Sparrow	70		42	26		70		9	158		14
White-throated Sparrow	4		20			111			1		4
Song Sparrow	10		5	4	1	31		13	57		22
Montana/Merilli					1						
Lincoln's Sparrow						1					
Swamp Sparrow			2		1				1		2
sparrow sp.						22					
Spotted Towhee	1				2	10		1	15		
Spotted/Eastern Towhee			2								
Eastern Meadowlark											17
Western Meadowlark	7		190	8	2						10
Meadowlark sp.	232	14		1		167	1	43	59		
Red-winged Blackbird	710	50	83	44	34	57	19	78	837	4	159
Brown-headed Cowbird		1				3			1		
Rusty Blackbird			57						19		
Brewer's Blackbird											
Common Grackle				35		11					14
Great-tailed Grackle								75			
Blackbird sp.	40		64			7					
Orange-crowned Warbler											
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4		35	3		2		11	28		
Myrtle											
Audubon's											
unspecified											
Warbler sp.						1					
Northern Cardinal	51	6	130	6		142	2	22	53		46
TOTAL SPECIES	69	41	78	66	39	79	43	55	91	37	54
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	8772	3324	7112	22074	1859	22135	3203	36504	87343	551	2109

2025-26 CBC Data

	Kearney	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Lower Platte	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Dark-eyed Junco	397	254	1151	612	392	63	572	528	218	7,457
Slate-colored	151	90					25		23	
Oregon	5	24					1		26	
Pink-sided	3								13	
White-winged										
Gray-headed										
Cassiar (cismontanus)	1								2	
unspecified	237	140					546		154	
White-crowned Sparrow	42	77	11	7	12	26	31	9	392	778
Gambel's White-crowned	32									
unspecified	10									
Harris's Sparrow	35	2	51	32	8	1	29	19	1	567
White-throated Sparrow	1		41	52			33	1		268
Song Sparrow	14	22	22	7	5	3	7	1	20	244
Montana/Merilli										
Lincoln's Sparrow							2			3
Swamp Sparrow	1									7
sparrow sp.			9				10			41
Spotted Towhee	1		2	3			1	2	6	44
Spotted/Eastern Towhee										2
Eastern Meadowlark			2							19
Western Meadowlark		1	56		40				28	342
Meadowlark sp.	139		1	2	31	73	19	10		792
Red-winged Blackbird	1,208	283	648	2	1,823	1,530	870	108	1,350	9,897
Brown-headed Cowbird	13				8	10				36
Rusty Blackbird	12				1			1		90
Brewer's Blackbird						12				12
Common Grackle	1		3			10				74
Great-tailed Grackle		114	1			250			1	441
Blackbird sp.										111
Orange-crowned Warbler		1					1			2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	52	10	8	20		3	3			179
Myrtle	22									
Audubon's	1									
unspecified	29									
Warbler sp.										1
Northern Cardinal	27	41	221	122	23	7	140	24		1,063
TOTAL SPECIES	80	99	76	82	67	77	72	58	70	142
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	26212	27261	17384	17811	9948	19097	27749	2908	21323	352,583

Annual Treasurer's Report for 2025

David Cunningham

Checking	General Fund	Breeding Bird Atlas i.e., Savings	Scholarship Fund	Endowment Fund	Total
12/15/2024 Ending Balance	\$18,204.55	\$7,158.27	\$2,298.45	\$44,002.29	\$71,663.56
Receipts					
Memberships					
Checks	\$1,267.00				\$1,267.00
Paypal	\$3,595.00				\$3,595.00
Subscriptions	\$225.00				\$225.00
Interest earned		\$46.80			\$46.80
Investment income				\$4,709.74	\$4,709.74
Donations	\$1,765.00	\$5.00	\$30.00		\$1,800.00
Meetings:					
Spring - South Sioux City	\$1,307.16				\$1,307.16
Fall - Ogallala	\$5,880.00				\$5,880.00
Subtotal receipts	\$14,039.16	\$51.80	\$30.00	\$4,709.74	\$18,830.70
Disbursements					
NBR - Jan-Dec 2025					
Printing: \$	\$3,533.80				\$3,533.80
Postage: \$	\$93.13				\$93.13
Post-batch postage	\$7.40				\$7.40
Spring - South Sioux City					
Fall - Ogallala	\$4,480.82				\$4,480.82
Spring - Ft. Robinson Reservation	\$489.40				\$489.40
Scholarships Spring	\$0.00				\$0.00
Scholarships Fall	\$0.00				\$0.00
990-N & NE State	\$131.64				\$131.64
Webpage	\$352.22				\$352.22
Janis Paseka - postage					
Acuity Insurance	\$774.00				\$774.00
Endowment Vanguard					
Miscellaneous	\$182.87				\$182.87
PayPal fee	\$346.98				\$346.98
Subtotal disbursements	\$10,392.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,392.26
12/31/2025 Balance *	\$22,234.80	\$7,255.50	0	\$48,712.03	\$78,202.33

* Correction made	When the Veridian accounts were opened, Veridian mistakenly linked the checking to savings. This resulted in withdrawing approximately \$2440 from the savings that should have come from checking. To adjust for the corrections, \$2,500 was moved from checking to savings on 2/9/2026. Dave Cunningham viewed the total summation of funds as opposed to the importance of keeping the funds separated.
Key note	Jan Johnson was the treasurer from January 1, 2025 though approximately July 2026 with about 2 months overlap (June and July) with Dave Cunningham. However, the funds were not transitioned to Dave Cunningham until July 2026.

Subscription and Organization Information

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