

We had great weather for the Spring Species Count on May 12. This year, as I joined the group at Eagle Point Park, I remembered that it snowed the first year I did a Spring Count at Eagle Point. Evidently, the weather did not discourage me since I have completed many more counts in the intervening years. There were eleven participants starting the day at Eagle Point. With the early spring, the tree leaves were well on the way to development. Amazing how those little birds can hide behind a leaf! Here are some of the highlights. We heard more warblers than we saw, but we did get a great look at a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher when it landed on a bare tree limb to rest. At John Deere dike, we had a good look at a group of Dunlins - little shorebirds with black bellies. Bob and Sandy Walton saw several Wilson's Phalaropes at Green Island. Before we left Swiss Valley Nature Center that evening, a Pileated Woodpecker flew over. It was the first of the day. Finally, as I was working at my computer that evening, I heard a Common Nighthawk in my neighborhood. We saw a total of 123 species for the day, enjoyed good weather, and had fun conversation when we tallied the results. Not a bad day! The list of birds follows:

American White Pelican Double-crested Cormorant Great Blue Herron Great Egret Green Heron

Turkey Vulture Canada Goose *Trumpeter Swan Wood Duck Mallard

Blue-winged Teal Northern Shoveler Lesser Scaup Hooded Merganser

Bald Eagle Red-tailed Hawk American Kestrel Cliff Swallow Barn Swallow

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch

House Wren Sedge Wren Marsh Wren

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Eastern Bluebird

Veery

Swainson's Thrush Wood Thrush American Robin Gray Catbird Brown Thrasher **European Starling**

Peregrine Falcon Ring-necked Pheasant Wild Turkey American Coot Sandhill Crane Semipalmated Plover Killdeer

Lesser Yellowlegs Solitary Sandpiper Spotted Sandpiper Sanderling

Greater Yellowlegs

Semipalmated Sandpiper Least Sandpiper Baird's Sandpiper Pectoral Sandpiper

Dunlin

Wilson's Phalarope Ring-billed Gull Rock Dove Mourning Dove Eurasian Collared Dove Common Nighthawk Chimney Swift Ruby-throated Hummingbird Belted Kingfisher

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Downy Woodpecker Hairy Woodpecker Northern Flicker Pileated Woodpecker Eastern Wood-Pewee

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Eastern Phoebe Great Crested Flycatcher

Eastern Kingbird Yellow-throated Vireo Warbling Vireo Philadelphia Vireo

Blue Jay American Crow Purple Martin Tree Swallow N. Rough-winged

Red-eyed Vireo

Swallow

Cedar Waxwing Golden-winged Warbler Tennessee Warbler Nashville Warbler Northern Parula Yellow Warbler Chestnut-sided Warbler Cape May Warbler Black-throated Green Warbler

Blackburnian Warbler Yellow-throated Warbler Palm Warbler

Blackpoll Warbler Cerulean Warbler Black-and-white Warbler American Redstart Prothonotary Warbler Northern Waterthrush Common Yellowthroat Scarlet Tanager Eastern Towhee Chipping Sparrow Field Sparrow

Lincoln's Sparrow Swamp Sparrow White-throated Sparrow White-crowned Sparrow Northern Cardinal Rose-breasted Grosbeak Indigo Bunting Dickcissel **Bobolink**

Song Sparrow

Red-winged Blackbird Eastern Meadowlark Western Meadowlark Yellow-headed Blackbird Common Grackle Brown-headed Cowbird Orchard Oriole

Baltimore Oriole House Finch American Goldfinch House Sparrow