

SPRING SPECIES COUNT

By Joe Tollari

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	Cliff Swallow
Double-crested Cormorant	Barn Swallow
Great Blue Heron	Black-capped Chickadee
Great Egret	Tufted Titmouse
Green Heron	White-breasted Nuthatch
Turkey Vulture	House Wren
Canada Goose	Sedge Wren
*Trumpeter Swan	Marsh Wren
Wood Duck	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Mallard	Eastern Bluebird
Blue-winged Teal	Veery
Northern Shoveler	Swainson's Thrush
Lesser Scaup	Wood Thrush
Hooded Merganser	American Robin
Bald Eagle	Gray Catbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown Thrasher
American Kestrel	European Starling

Peregrine Falcon	Cedar Waxwing
Ring-necked Pheasant	Golden-winged Warbler
Wild Turkey	Tennessee Warbler
American Coot	Nashville Warbler
Sandhill Crane	Northern Parula
Semipalmated Plover	Yellow Warbler
Killdeer	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Greater Yellowlegs	Cape May Warbler
	Black-throated Green Warbler
Lesser Yellowlegs	Blackburnian Warbler
Solitary Sandpiper	Yellow-throated Warbler
Spotted Sandpiper	Palm Warbler
Sanderling	Blackpoll Warbler
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Cerulean Warbler
Least Sandpiper	Black-and-white Warbler
Baird's Sandpiper	American Redstart
Pectoral Sandpiper	Prothonotary Warbler
Dunlin	Northern Waterthrush
Wilson's Phalarope	Common Yellowthroat
Ring-billed Gull	Scarlet Tanager
Rock Dove	Eastern Towhee
Mourning Dove	Chipping Sparrow
Eurasian Collared Dove	Field Sparrow
Common Nighthawk	Song Sparrow
Chimney Swift	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Lincoln's Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher	Swamp Sparrow
Red-bellied Woodpecker	White-throated Sparrow
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	White-crowned Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	Northern Cardinal
Hairy Woodpecker	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Northern Flicker	Indigo Bunting
Pileated Woodpecker	Dickcissel
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Bobolink
Eastern Phoebe	Red-winged Blackbird
Great Crested Flycatcher	Eastern Meadowlark
Eastern Kingbird	Western Meadowlark
Yellow-throated Vireo	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Warbling Vireo	Common Grackle
Philadelphia Vireo	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-eyed Vireo	Orchard Oriole
Blue Jay	Baltimore Oriole
American Crow	House Finch
Purple Martin	American Goldfinch
Tree Swallow	House Sparrow
N. Rough-winged Swallow	