Jordan Lake Spring Bird Count 2022

May 1, 2022 was a mild day with temperatures ranging from 52°F in the morning to 65°F in the afternoon. Winds were calm in the morning to light and variable later in the day, and the sky was overcast in the morning to partly cloudy in the afternoon. There was no precipitation.

Forty-nine observers in 27 parties participated (our 10-year averages are 48 and 22, respectively). So, Tom Driscoll did a great job of getting all the areas in the count circle covered. We tallied 10,030 individual birds (avg. 8,485) in 122 species (avg. 120) in 136 party hours (avg. 142).

We recorded average to good numbers of our regularly occurring species—year-round residents and migrants who breed here. And we only missed a few species that we normally find each year (at least 5 out of the last 10 years)—Great Egret, American Kestrel, and Magnolia Warbler.

That said, we did have several new record high counts:

* 86 Red-headed Woodpeckers (our previous high was 79 in 2021)
* 115 White-eyed Vireos (86 in 2018)
* 37 White-breasted Nuthatches (28 in 2013)
* 139 Brown-headed Nuthatches (114 in 2012)
* 346 Carolina Wrens (302 in 2021)
* 327 Chipping Sparrows (305 in 2021)
* 250 Ovenbirds (234 in 2002)
* 121 Black-and-white Warblers (82 in 2016)
* 177 Northern Parulas (174 in 2021)
* 469 Northern Cardinals (466 in 2012)

In addition, our parties turned up a few species that are unusual on our spring counts:

* Hooded Merganser—1 each found by Adam Short and Brian Bockhahn
* Ruddy Duck—1 found by Brian Bockhahn
* Pied billed Grebe—6 found by Jonathan Cantrell, 1 by Fleeta Wilkerson and Nan Dewire
* Herring Gull—1 found by Brian Bockhahn
* Broad-winged Hawk—1 found by Jim Capel and Mel Green
* Grasshopper Sparrow—1 found by Brian Bockhahn
* Blue-winged Warbler—1 found by Susan and Marion Pratt
* Cape May Warbler—1 found by Brian Bockhahn
* In addition, Patrick Coin and Denise Ward found a falcon that they didn’t see well enough to identify to species.

Brian Bockhahn found 79 species in the Vista Point area (note all his special birds in the list above) while Patsy Bailey and Gene Kingsley found 74 species in the area east of the Jordan Lake dam.

If you would like to see a spreadsheet of this count and a cumulative spreadsheet of all our counts, please visit the Bird Counts page on the New Hope Audubon website at: <http://www.newhopeaudubon.org/get-outdoors/bird-counts/>

Norm Budnitz, compiler.