Jordan Lake Spring Bird Count 2023

May 7, 2023, was a mild day with temperatures ranging from 53°F in the morning to 77°F in the afternoon. Winds were calm in the morning and then variable to 15 mph later in the day, and the sky was clear to partly cloudy throughout the day. There was no precipitation.

Forty-nine observers in 25 parties participated (our 10-year averages are 47 and 22, respectively). We tallied 9,112 individual birds (avg. 8,349) in 115 species (avg. 119) in 126 party hours (avg. 123).

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)—Hooded Mergnser, Rock Pigeon, Eastern Screech-Owl, Palm Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

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

* 62 Bald Eagles (our previous high was 58 in 2012)
* 56 Downy Woodpeckers (54 in 2002)
* 83 Eastern Wood-Pewees (82 in 2021)
* 124 White-eyed Vireos (115 in 2022)
* 2 Common Ravens (1 in 2021)
* 43 White-breasted Nuthatches (37 in 2022)
* 367 Chipping Sparrows (327 in 2022)

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

* Greater Scaup—1 found by Nan Dewire, Fleeta Wilkinson and Mark Montazer (This was the very first record of this species on our spring count. Mark included an excellent photograph in their eBird report.)
* American Black Duck—1 found by Roger Shaw, Carolyn McAllaster and Jennifer Maher
* Least Sandpiper—3 found by Jonathan Cantrell
* Cape May Warbler—1 found by Patrick Coin and Denise Ward

Noah Rokoske found 84 species in the area on the west side of the Jordan Lake Dam, while Tom Driscoll and Alex Preston reported 75 species in the area covering Hank's Chapel Rd to Gum Springs Rd.

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.