Northeast District Meeting 5/20/2021 Lewis & Clark SRA

The meeting started with District Birding Day. One party went out at 6 a.m. and were joined by others forming two parties at 9 a.m. Areas birded included the Weigand, Miller Creek, and South Shore areas of Lewis & Clark SRA as well as Lake Yankton. As a group, we ended up with 102 species.

Following the compilation of bird lists, president Josh Kounovsky called the meeting to order.

Roll Call/Introductions:

Josh Kounovsky, Grove Lake WMA	Tim Rice, Mount Marty University
Cody Baker, PF, Neligh	Kyle Schumacher, NPLT, Grove Lake
Russ Hamer, Oak Valley WMA	Matthew Pfeifer, Oak Valley WMA
Ross Curry, Oak Valley WMA	Nathan Wieseler, Oak Valley WMA
Jen Corman, NPLT, Bassett	Logan Pierce, Grove Lake WMA
John Bauer, Law Enforcement, Holt/Boyd	Lucas Negus, Norfolk
Counties	Jonathan Voelker, Lewis & Clark SRA
Jeff Jones, Law Enforcement, Cedar/Knox counties	Cole Beyke, Northeast Horticulturalist
Alexander McCarty, Grove Lake	Chris Wood, NPLT, Ponca SP
	Jason Thiele, Norfolk

Individual reports were given by the following:

Josh Kounovsky

- Had a great spring burn season; moving to weed control season
- New toilet has been installed at Verdel Landing
- Several fencing projects coming up
- Fully staffed again

Jen Corman

- Got about 3000 acres burned in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021
- Several tree removal projects going on as well as some native prairie restoration
- Will be conducting American burying beetle surveys this summer; contact Jen if you'd like to help
- Butterfly surveys during the summer

Jon Voelker

- Parks Centennial event on June 5 dueling pianos; had lots of donations to make it happen and sold out all tickets on first day; may consider doing this or a similar event again if it goes well
- Marina Day June 19

- Crofton Dam Race July 31; expecting around 200 participants
- Lighted boat parade on Labor Day weekend

Cody Baker

- Both prescribed burn associations in his coverage area completed all of their scheduled burns
- Currently doing weed checks and status reviews on CRP
- Not sure where things stand with current CRP sign-up, but interest has increased since USDA released a memo suggesting higher rental rates

Russ Hamer

- Getting a very good burn crew put together in the Northeast District with increasing equipment and training/experience among Wildlife and Parks staff
- Trying to do more "off-season" burns (e.g., fall woodland burning) and bigger units; might be reaching out for help
- Reminder: be aware if you're feeling rushed to get more and more burns accomplished most accidents happen when people are in a hurry

Jeff Jones

- The district now has two subdistricts for law enforcement Jeff Jones is sergeant for the western subdistrict and Cory Krause is sergeant for the eastern counties
- Law enforcement has several new hires and others in training this summer
- John Baeur is the new C.O for Holt and Boyd counties; his family will be moving to O'Neill in June
- Hoping that Northeast District staff won't have to spend as much time at Lake McConaughy this summer (maybe just holiday weekends)
- New equipment: thermal scopes (could be made available to other staff for burns or other uses), boats, defibrillators

Cole Beyke

- Parks have been doing more burning and are building up a good supply cache; have several new UTV sprayers and will soon have four pumper units in the Northeast region by end of fall
- Have been doing tree plantings at park entrances and hazard tree removal
- Will be focusing on vegetation management at Niobrara SP and Dead Timber SRA this year
 - Fire break project at Niobrara SP to get more and larger burns (got about 380 acres done this year)
 - Hack-and-squirt project at Dead Timber; hope to improve overlook area
- Dead Timber revamp project is still under consideration
 - Plan to create new campground on ridge and abandon the existing campground in river bottom

Dr. Tim Rice (Mount Marty University)

- Has backpack electrofishing unit, minnow traps, small mammal traps, etc. and applicable collection permits
- Also has several students looking for volunteer experiences
- Contact him at timoth.rice@mountmarty.edu

Kyle Schumacher

- Good burn season; getting more multi-landowner burns covering several hundred acres
- Two large burns in Willow Creek Prairies BUL this spring; planning a habitat tour this summer to demonstrate to other area landowners
- Doing some fish sampling in Bazile Creek this summer
- Looking for multi-landowner habitat restoration projects

Chris Wood

- Like others, had a very successful spring burn season; most burning ever at Ponca SP including about 600 acres of oak woods plus 200 acres in the North Addition and the backwater area (lots of flood debris from 2011 flood to burn up); 380 acres at Niobrara SP with plans to burn about 1/3 of that park each year
- Working on getting more Parks staff burn boss qualified
- Currently working on invasive species control garlic mustard, leafy spurge, thistles, etc.
- Nebraska Natural Legacy Centennial Event at Ponca SP on August 21

Logan Pierce

- CDL training and testing next week
- Fencing projects

Lucas Negus

- With increasing size of equipment, more staff need a Class A CDL for towing trailers; have begun a program with Northeast Community College to get training and certification for staff
- Depredation expected to be a hot issue this summer with higher commodity prices
 - Two new depredation biologists recently hired in Alliance and North Platte areas and a Depredation program manager in Lincoln, but the Northeast will continue to operation much as we have in the past
 - Already taken complaints about damage (from turkeys and geese; deer complaints will start picking up soon
 - New refrigerated trailers will be available to landowners who receive "kill permits" will allow for deer that are killed during the summer months to be more easily utilized for meat
- Sam Wilson has a new technician in Valentine for mountain lion research planning to put collars on lions in the Niobrara River and Loup River valleys
- New "earn-an-elk" tag may be available to landowners (not approved yet) they receive points toward a free bull tag for allowing cow elk harvest on their property
- New three-day landowner deer season begins this fall (Saturday-Monday prior to traditional firearm deer season)
- Wolves
 - Wolves recently killed near Bassett and Uhling; DNA testing confirmed they were from the Great Lakes population (WI/MN)
 - No longer a protected species in NE due to changes at federal level; remains unclear whether pelts can be sold
- Expecting a trapping season for river otters this fall
 - Would have a quota and check-in system similar to mountain lion season

- Will be multiple application windows for big game permits this year to avoid issues with the system crashing
- New process for unsold draw unit permits; instead of being offered first-come, first-served, they will be offered to the next applicants on the preference point list
- Planning for in-person deer check stations in the fall

Jason Thiele

- Lots of burns this last fall and this spring, particularly for management on CRP that was postponed due to COVID plus some woodland and rangeland burns
- Currently spending lots of time on Open Fields and Waters signup; deadline is in June, so please pass along any landowners who may be interested
- "Berggren Pheasant Plan 2.0" is underway; changes to the Northeast Pheasant Opportunity Area have dropped Holt County and added Madison, Stanton, and Pierce counties; will be pushing for more public access in these areas and offering additional incentives
- Private lands Biologist II position for the western part of the district has been filled; Bryon O'Connor will be starting next month
- Grouse surveys were completed
- Assisted with woodcock surveys and capture of two woodcock at Wood Duck WMA; these birds are being tracked by GPS transmitters
- Pilot year of UNL pheasant study in progress; wildlife staff, conservation officers, and PF Farm Bill biologists have been running crow counts; doing some cover mapping
- Farm Bill Biologist position in Stanton is currently vacant; Jason and Scott have been picking up some of the workload in the interim period; hoping to have someone by late summer
- Will be doing butterfly surveys and Breeding Bird Survey routes in June

Request for Help:

- Danish Alps SRA is having a "Great No Wake Weekend" event on June 12th
- Looking for help with timekeeping for kayak races
- Contact Lynn Mellick (<u>lynn.mellick@nebraska.gov</u>; 402-755-2284) to volunteer

Next meeting date/location are TBD; likely in late summer

Minutes submitted by Jason Thiele

NE District Birding Day

NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Checklist of the Birds of Nebraska - 465 Species This checklist is provided as a service of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

Date 3-20-2021 Time 06:00- 13:00 Locality CC SRA Sky Osercast Wind 5-10 SW Temp 650 102 Staff and Friends Observers NE District (20 Total Species 400 Darticipants **Total Individuals**

Swans, Geese, and Ducks Black-bellied Whistling-Duck Fulvous Whistling-Duck Emperor Goose Snow Goose Ross's Goose Greater White-fronted Goose Taiga Bean-Goose Brant **Cackling Goose** Canada Goose Mute Swan Trumpeter Swan Tundra Swan Wood Duck Garganey Blue-winged Teal Cinnamon Teal XNorthern Shoveler Gadwall Eurasian Wigeon American Wigeon Mallard American Black Duck Mottled Duck Northern Pintail Green-winged Teal Canvasback Redhead Ring-necked Duck Tufted Duck Greater Scaup Lesser Scaup King Eider Common Eider Harlequin Duck Surf Scoter White-winged Scoter Black Scoter Long-tailed Duck Bufflehead Common Goldeneye Barrow's Goldeneye Hooded Merganser Common Merganser Red-breasted Merganser _Ruddy Duck Quail Northern Bobwhite

Partridges, Grouse, and Turkeys Wild Turkey **Ruffed Grouse** Greater Sage-Grouse Sharp-tailed Grouse Greater Prairie-Chicken Lesser Prairie-Chicken Gray Partridge Ring-necked Pheasant Grebes **Pied-billed Grebe** Horned Grebe **Red-necked Grebe** Eared Grebe Western Grebe Clark's Grebe **Pigeons and Doves** KRock Pigeon Band-tailed Pigeon Eurasian Collared-Dove Passenger Pigeon Inca Dove Common Ground Dove White-winged Dove Mourning Dove Cuckoos and Anis Groove-billed Ani Yellow-billed Cuckoo Black-billed Cuckoo Goatsuckers Common Nighthawk Common Poorwill Chuck-will's-widow Eastern Whip-poor-will Swifts Chimney Swift White-throated Swift Hummingbirds X Ruby-throated Hummingbird Black-chinned Hummingbird Anna's Hummingbird Costa's Hummingbird Calliope Hummingbird **Rufous Hummingbird** Broad-tailed Hummingbird Rails, Gallinules, and Coots

No. of the Article of

Clapper Rail

_King Rail Virginia Rail Sora **Common Gallinule** X American Coot **Purple Gallinule** Yellow Rail Black Rail Cranes Sandhill Crane Common Crane Whooping Crane Hooded Crane Stilts and Avocets Black-necked Stilt X American Avocet Plovers Black-bellied Plover American Golden-Plover Killdeer Semipalmated Plover Piping Plover Mountain Plover Snowy Plover Sandpipers and Phalaropes Upland Sandpiper Whimbrel Eskimo Curlew Long-billed Curlew Hudsonian Godwit Marbled Godwit Ruddy Turnstone Red Knot Ruff ___Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Stilt Sandpiper Curlew Sandpiper Sanderling Dunlin Baird's Sandpiper Least Sandpiper KWhite-rumped Sandpiper **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** Pectoral Sandpiper Semipalmated Sandpiper Western Sandpiper Short-billed Dowitcher Long-billed Dowitcher

American Woodcock Wilson's Snipe Spotted Sandpiper Solitary Sandpiper KLesser Yellowlegs Willet **Greater Yellowlegs** Wilson's Phalarope Red-necked Phalarope Red Phalarope Jaegers **Pomarine Jaeger** Parasitic Jaeger Long-tailed Jaeger Auks, Murres, and Allies Ancient Murrelet Gulls and Terns Black-legged Kittiwake Sabine's Gull Bonaparte's Gull Black-headed Gull Little Gull Ross's Gull Laughing Gull K Franklin's Gull Mew Gull King-billed Gull California Gull Herring Gull Iceland Gull Lesser Black-backed Gull _Glaucous-winged Gull Glaucous Gull Great Black-backed Gull Least Tern Caspian Tern Black Tern Common Tern Arctic Tern Forster's Tern __Royal Tern Loons **Red-throated Loon** Pacific Loon Common Loon Yellow-billed Loon Storks Wood Stork

___Magnificent Frigatebird **Boobies and Gannets** Brown Booby Darters Anhinga Cormorants X Double-crested Cormorant ___Neotropic Cormorant Pelicans American White Pelican **Brown Pelican Bitterns and Herons** American Bittern Least Bittern KGreat Blue Heron KGreat Egret Snowy Egret Little Blue Heron Tricolored Heron **Reddish Egret** Cattle Egret KGreen Heron Black-crowned Night-Heron Yellow-crowned Night-Heron **Ibises and Spoonbills** White Ibis Glossy Ibis White-faced Ibis Roseate Spoonbill American Vultures Black Vulture Turkey Vulture Osprey Osprey Kites, Hawks, Eagles, and Allies White-tailed Kite Swallow-tailed Kite Golden Eagle Northern Harrier Sharp-shinned Hawk Cooper's Hawk Northern Goshawk X Bald Eagle Mississippi Kite Harris's Hawk Red-shouldered Hawk

Frigatebirds

Broad-winged Hawk X Swainson's Hawk Zone-tailed Hawk Red-tailed Hawk _Rough-legged Hawk __Ferruginous Hawk Barn Owls Barn Owl **Typical Owls** Eastern Screech-Owl Great Horned Owl Snowy Owl Northern Hawk Owl Burrowing Owl Barred Owl Great Gray Owl Long-eared Owl Short-eared Owl **Boreal Owl** Northern Saw-whet Owl Kingfishers K Belted Kingfisher Woodpeckers Lewis's Woodpecker Red-headed Woodpecker Acorn Woodpecker Ked-bellied Woodpecker Williamson's Sapsucker Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Red-naped Sapsucker American Three-toed Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker K Hairy Woodpecker X Northern Flicker Pileated Woodpecker Falcons Crested Caracara XAmerican Kestrel Merlin Gyrfalcon Peregrine Falcon Prairie Falcon Parrots Carolina Parakeet Tyrant Flycatchers Olive-sided Flycatcher Western Wood-Pewee

Eastern Wood-Pewee Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Acadian Flycatcher Alder Flycatcher Willow Flycatcher Hammond's Flycatcher Gray Flycatcher Dusky Flycatcher Cordilleran Flycatcher Least Flycatcher Black Phoebe Eastern Phoebe _Say's Phoebe Vermilion Flycatcher Ash-throated Flycatcher Great Crested Flycatcher Great Kiskadee Cassin's Kingbird Western Kingbird Eastern Kingbird Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Shrikes Loggerhead Shrike Northern Shrike Vireos Black-capped Vireo White-eyed Vireo Bell's Vireo XYellow-throated Vireo Cassin's Vireo **Blue-headed Vireo** Plumbeous Vireo Philadelphia Vireo X Warbling Vireo X Red-eyed Vireo Jays, Magpies, and Crows Canada Jay Pinyon Jay Steller's Jay Clark's Nutcracker **Black-billed Magpie** American Crow Fish Crow Chihuahuan Raven Common Raven Larks Horned Lark Swallows K Bank Swallow Tree Swallow Violet-green Swallow Northern Rough-winged Swallow Purple Martin Barn Swallow Cliff Swallow Cave Swallow Titmice Black-capped Chickadee

Mountain Chickadee **Tufted Titmouse** Nuthatches **Red-breasted Nuthatch** White-breasted Nuthatch _Pygmy Nuthatch **Brown-headed Nuthatch** Creepers Brown Creeper Wrens Rock Wren Canyon Wren X House Wren Pacific Wren Winter Wren Sedge Wren Marsh Wren Carolina Wren Bewick's Wren Gnatcatchers _Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Dippers _American Dipper Kinglets Golden-crowned Kinglet _Ruby-crowned Kinglet **Thrushes and Allies** Eastern Bluebird Mountain Bluebird Townsend's Solitaire Veery Gray-cheeked Thrush Swainson's Thrush Hermit Thrush Wood Thrush X American Robin Varied Thrush Mockingbirds and Thrashers KGray Catbird Curve-billed Thrasher KBrown Thrasher _Sage Thrasher Northern Mockingbird Starlings European Starling Waxwings **Bohemian Waxwing** Cedar Waxwing Silky-flycatchers Phainopepla **Qld World Sparrows** House Sparrow **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** Pipits American Pipit _Sprague's Pipit Finches

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Brambling Evening Grosbeak Pine Grosbeak Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch Black Rosy-Finch House Finch Purple Finch **Cassin's Finch** Common Redpoll Hoary Redpoll **Red Crossbill** White-winged Crossbill X Pine Siskin Lesser Goldfinch American Goldfinch Longspurs and Snow Bunting Lapland Longspur Chestnut-collared Longspur Smith's Longspur Thick-billed Longspur Snow Bunting Towhees, Sparrows Cassin's Sparrow KGrasshopper Sparrow Black-throated Sparrow Lark Sparrow Lark Bunting Chipping Sparrow Clay-colored Sparrow X Field Sparrow Brewer's Sparrow Fox Sparrow American Tree Sparrow Dark-eyed Junco White-crowned Sparrow Golden-crowned Sparrow Harris's Sparrow White-throated Sparrow Sagebrush Sparrow Vesper Sparrow LeConte's Sparrow Nelson's Sparrow Baird's Sparrow Henslow's Sparrow Savannah Sparrow Song Sparrow Lincoln's Sparrow _Swamp Sparrow Green-tailed Towhee Spotted Towhee Eastern Towhee Yellow-breasted Chat Yellow-breasted Chat Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, **Orioles, and Allies** Yellow-headed Blackbird Bobolink Eastern Meadowlark Western Meadowlark

X Orchard Oriole **Hooded Oriole Bullock's Oriole** Baltimore Oriole Scott's Oriole Red-winged Blackbird KBrown-headed Cowbird Rusty Blackbird Brewer's Blackbird Common Grackle Great-tailed Grackle Wood Warblers **X**Ovenbird _Worm-eating Warbler Louisiana Waterthrush Northern Waterthrush Golden-winged Warbler Blue-winged Warbler Black-and-white Warbler Prothonotary Warbler Swainson's Warbler Tennessee Warbler Orange-crowned Warbler Nashville Warbler Virginia's Warbler **Connecticut Warbler** MacGillivray's Warbler ____Mourning Warbler Kentucky Warbler Common Yellowthroat **Hooded Warbler** X American Redstart Cape May Warbler **Cerulean Warbler** Northern Parula Magnolia Warbler **Bay-breasted Warbler** Blackburnian Warbler X Yellow Warbler **Chestnut-sided Warbler** Blackpoll Warbler Black-throated Blue Warbler Palm Warbler Pine Warbler Yellow-rumped Warbler Yellow-throated Warbler Prairie Warbler Grace's Warbler Black-throated Gray Warbler **Townsend's Warbler** Hermit Warbler Black-throated Green Warbler Canada Warbler Wilson's Warbler Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies Hepatic Tanager Summer Tanager Scarlet Tanager

Dickcissel

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Western Tanager Northern Cardinal Rose-breasted Grosbeak Black-headed Grosbeak Blue Grosbeak Lazuli Bunting X Indigo Bunting Painted Bunting

The taxonomic sequence and nomenclature used in this list follow the Checklist of North American Birds, 7th Edition, American Ornithologists Union, 1998, updated through the 54th Supplement, 2013 (Auk 130(3):558-571, 2013).

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union (NOU) is a non-profit statewide organization dedicated to the study, appreciation and protection of birds. The NOU was founded in 1899, making it one of the oldest organizations in Nebraska devoted to the natural sciences. Even though our name may sound a bit old-fashioned, the NOU organization of stuffy old birdwatchers. From the beginning, its membership has included people of all backgrounds and experience in ornithology - from beginning birders to those with years of experience, from serious amateurs to professional ornithologists of international distinction. Then, as now, they share a common passion for the study of birds. Everyone who is interested in birds is welcome in NOU. To join the NOU, or for more information, http://noubirds.org/. If you find a species not listed in this county, be sure to let out

Records Committee know via