

Southeast Birding Day-5/11/2016

Burchard Lake and Table Rock WMAs

Attendees, 31: Adam Jones, Krista Lang, Dusty Shelbitzki, Michele Fuhrer Hurt, Sam Cowan, Leslie Hershberger, Jason Smith, Chuck Lesiak (+2 temps), Mike Remund, Kyle Smith (+ 2 temps), Neal VanWinkle (+1 temp), Travis Kopf (+3 temps), Chance Brueggemann, Rob, Jacob, Dan Blessing, Clem Klaphake, Joel Jorgensen, Kirk Hansen, Carson Jones, Kent Pfeiffer, Brad Seitz, Rick Souerdyke

Total of **90** different species were observed at birding day 2016; birding day 2005 was held at Burchard WMA and 81 species were detected by 29 individuals.

Speakers:

Joel Jorgensen: Bald eagles in NE.

- Bald eagles aren't a T & E species but are still protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. This is federal legislation administered by the USFWS. Questions, concerns and reports of eagle disturbance and take should be routed to USFWS.
- Nest monitoring is continuing but may take a different form in the future; the number of active nests does not appear to have leveled off in the state. Bald eagles prefer large, dead, cottonwood trees for nest sites-if these cottonwoods don't regenerate there may be fewer nest sites available in the future.
- Part of the current protection act includes the ability of entities to apply to the USFWS for nest 'take' permits. Some 'take' is going to be inevitable in NE. There may be a strong reaction by the public to these nest removals. Required mitigation will be part of the 'take' permitting process.

Mike Remund: Burchard WMA Management

- Burchard had previously been managed through haying and burning. Ten years ago, tree clearing was implemented and that was followed by adding grazing management to the area. Adding grazing brought year-round prairie chicken usage back to Burchard rather than the birds using the area solely for booming grounds.
- Currently the area has funding through the Prairie Grouse Grant to treat 300 acres of crown vetch over the course of two years.
- Management is aimed at trying to balance the needs of all species (invasive and protected) with prairie management; burn timing was altered to not negatively impact the area's estimated 100 massasauga rattlesnakes.

Kent Pfeiffer: Northern Prairies Land Trust

- Gave a brief overview of the NE Natural Legacy Plan and what it means for the Southeast Prairies BUL, where Burchard is located.
- Legacy staff with Northern Prairies Land Trust work with landowners to show and teach sustainable land management practices.
- Clearing trees on private property allows staff the opportunity to build relationships with private landowners in order to implement prescribed fire at a larger scale. Currently, the BULs in southeast NE are seeing fire at a rate of 50,000 acres every ten years; to be a sustainable process there needs to be closer to 50,000 acres burned each year.
- BUL burning is occurring through most of the year-late summer, fall, winter and spring.

Burchard Lake and Table Rock WMAs 2016 Bird List

Anseriformes/Anatidae

Canada Goose

Wood Duck

Mallard

Blue-winged Teal

Northern Shoveler

Galliformes/Odontophoridae

Northern Bob-white

Galliformes/Phasianidae

Ring-necked Pheasant

Greater Prairie-Chicken

Wild Turkey

Gaviiformes/Gaviidae

Podicipediformes/Podicipedidae

Pied-bill Grebe

Suliformes/Phalacrocoracidae

Double-crested Cormorant

Pelecaniformes/Pelecanidae

Pelecaniformes/Ardeidae

Great Blue Heron

Cattle Egret

Pelicaniformes/Threskiornithidae

Accipitriformes/Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture

Accipitriformes/Pandionidae

Accipitriformes/Accipitridae

Red-tailed Hawk

Gruiformes/Rallidae

American Coot

Gruiformes/Gruidae

Charadriiformes/Charadriidae

Killdeer

Charadriiformes/Recurvirostridae

Charadriiformes/Scolopacidae

Spotted Sandpiper

Wilson's Phalarope

Charadriiformes/Laridae

Franklin's Gull

Caspian Tern

Black Tern

Forster's Tern

Charadriiformes/Stercorariidae

Columbiformes/Columbidae

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Mourning Dove

Cuculiformes/Cuculidae

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Strigiformes/Tytonidae

Strigiformes/Strigidae

Caprimulgiformes/Carpimulgidae

Common Nighthawk

Apodiformes/Apodidae

Chimney Swift

Apodiformes/Trochilidae

Coraciiformes/Alcedinidae

Piciformes/Picidae

Red-headed Woodpecker

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Falconiformes/Falconidae

Passeriformes/Tyrannidae

Eastern Wood-Pee-wee

Least Flycatcher

Eastern Phoebe

Great Crested Flycatcher

Western Kingbird

Eastern Kingbird

Passeriformes/Laniidae

Passeriformes/Vireonidae

Blue-headed Vireo

Warbling Vireo

Red-eyed Vireo

Passeriformes/Corvidae

Blue Jay

American Crow

Passeriformes/Alaudidae

Passeriformes/Hirundinidae

Tree Swallow

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Bank Swallow

Cliff Swallow

Barn Swallow

Passeriformes/Paridae

Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

Passeriformes/Sittidae

White-breasted Nuthatch

Passeriformes/Certhiidae

Passeriformes/Troglodytidae

House Wren

Sedge Wren

Passeriformes/Poliophtidae

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Passeriformes/Regulidae

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Passeriformes/Turdidae

Eastern Bluebird

Swainson's Thrush

American Robin

Passeriformes/Mimidae

Gray Catbird

Brown Thrasher

Passeriformes/Sturnidae

European Starling

Passeriformes/Motacillidae

Passeriformes/Bombycillidae

Passeriformes/Calcariidae

Passeriformes/Parulidae

Ovenbird

Tennessee Warbler

Orange-crowned Warbler

Common Yellowthroat

Yellow Warbler

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Passeriformes/Emberizidae

Chipping Sparrow

Clay-colored Sparrow

Lark Sparrow

Grasshopper Sparrow

Lincoln's Sparrow

Harris's Sparrow

White-crowned Sparrow

Passeriformes/Cardinalidae

Summer Tanager

Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Indigo Bunting

Dickcissel

Passeriformes/Icteridae

Bobolink

Red-winged Blackbird

Eastern Meadowlark

Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird

Orchard Oriole

Baltimore Oriole

Passeriformes/Fringillidae

House Finch

American Goldfinch

Passeriformes/Passeridae

House Sparrow