

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Southeast Birding Day

On May 14, 2014 a total of 47 people participated in the annual NGPC Southeast District Birding Day on Nebraska's eastern saline wetlands within the Little Salt Creek watershed near 1st Street and Raymond Road, Lancaster County, Nebraska. The participants included the general public, representatives of a variety of conservation agencies, and representatives of the Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership.

Participants were split into groups and birded on three Eastern Saline Wetland sites; Little Salt Fork Marsh Preserve, Little Salt Creek West WMA, and Little Salt Springs. Partners of the Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership acquired these critically imperiled saline wetlands, creating a significant habitat complex at this location of approximately 600 acres. The area provides multi-use public access in close proximity to the City of Lincoln.

Following the birding in the morning the group met in Raymond Park for an early lunch and discussion about conservation efforts within the Eastern Saline Wetlands. Tom Malmstrom, Partnership Coordinator provided an overview of the activities the partnership is involved in; Gordon Coke, The Flatwater Group Biologist, provided specific information on a restoration project and also a planning effort that they are pursuing for the partnership; Dan Schulz, LPSNRD Biologist, provided information on Eastern Saline Wetland management issues; and Joel Jorgenson of the NGPC provided a birder's perspective on biological use of these wetlands, including information on a "secretive" marsh bird survey conducted in 2013.

The bird species (common name) identified during this birding day on the saline wetlands is identified below. A total of 92 species were identified.

American Widgeon	Gadwall	Canada Goose	Mallard	Blue-winged Teal	Northern Shoveler
Green-winged Teal	Ruddy Duck	Wild Turkey	Ring-necked Pheasant	Northern Bob-white Quail	Great Blue Heron
Great Egret	Cattle Egret	Turkey Vulture	Northern Harrier	Red-tailed Hawk	Sora
American Coot	Killdeer	Lesser Yellowlegs	Least Sandpiper	White-rumped Sandpiper	Wilson's Phalarope
Franklin's Gull	Black Tern	Forester's Tern	Rock Pigeon	Mourning Dove	Eurasian Collared-Dove
Chimney Swift	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Red-headed Woodpecker	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Flicker
Western Kingbird	Least Flycatcher	Eastern Phoebe	Eastern Kingbird	Warbling Vireo	Bell's Vireo
Blue Jay	American Crow	Purple Martin	Tree Swallow	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow	Bank Swallow	Black-capped Chickadee	Tufted Titmouse	Sedge Wren	House Wren
Marsh Wren	Eastern Bluebird	American Robin	Gray Catbird	Brown Thrasher	European Starling
Tennessee Warbler	Yellow Warbler	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Common Yellowthroat	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Wilson's Warbler
Chipping Sparrow	Clay-colored Sparrow	Field Sparrow	Song Sparrow	White-throated Sparrow	Harris's Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow	Grasshopper Sparrow	LeConte's Sparrow	Lincoln's Sparrow	White-crowned Sparrow	Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Blue Grosbeak	Dicksissel	Bobolink	Red-winged Blackbird	Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Common Grackle	Brown-headed Cowbird	Orchard Oriole	Baltimore Oriole
American Goldfinch	House Sparrow				