Seasonal Field-notes

Big Day Counts: 1988

by William K. Volkert

There were 21 Big Day Counts in 1988. Last year there were 23. The counts took place between May 11 and May 29. Group size varied from a single observer to parties of three. Several observers conducted more than one count. The high species count was 176. Here are the highlights of the 21 counts, which are arranged in chronological order.

(1) Jerry DeBoer, Karl Leggler, and Greg Howard.—May 11, 12:01 A.M.—8:30 P.M., 380 miles by car, 4 miles on foot, 152 species. Route: Vernon Marsh, Racine and Milwaukee County Parks, Horicon, Columbia County Ponds, Baxter’s Hollow.

(2) Jim Frank.—May 11, 3:30 A.M.—6:00 P.M., 285 miles by car, 3 miles on foot, 151 species. Route: Cedarburg Bog, Kletzsch Park, Schlitz Audubon Center, Milwaukee Harbor, Riveredge Nature Center, Belgium Pond, Horicon, Grassy Lake.

(3) Mike Mossman and Sam Robbins.—May 12, 9:00 A.M.—8:45 P.M., 207 miles by car, 4 miles on foot, 155 species including a Worm-eating Warbler. Route: Mazomanie, Baraboo Hills, Devil’s Lake, Madison area, Arlington Ponds.


(5) Mary Donald and Roger Sundell.—May 14, 3:00 A.M.—9:30 P.M., 241 miles by car, 5 miles on foot, 139 species, including Laughing Gull and House Finch. Route: Cedarburg Bog, Ehlers Park, Harrington Beach, Belgrade Ponds, Milwaukee River Parks, Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment.

(7) Karl and Dorothy Legler.—May 14, 1:00 A.M.—10:00 P.M., 360 miles by car, 5 miles on foot, 145 species, including a King Rail and White-eyed Vireo. Route: Laws Bottoms, Baraboo Hills, UW Arboretum, 9-Springs, Arlington Ponds, Horicon.


(10) Jim Frank.—May 17, 3:45 A.M.—8:00 P.M., 365 miles by car, 3 miles on foot, 149 species. Route: Cedarburg Bog, Kletzsch Park, Riveredge Nature Center, Belgium Pond, Noyes Forest, Horicon Marsh, Grassy Lake, DM Pond, Milwaukee Harbor.


(12) Jim Frank.—May 19, 3:45 A.M.—6:00 P.M., 245 miles by car, 3 miles on foot, 141 species, including a Whimbrel. Route: Cedarburg Bog, Riveredge Nature Center, Belgium Pond, Harrington Beach, Noyes Forest, Horicon Marsh, Manitowoc Harbor.

(13) Bernie Brouchoud and Carrol Rudy.—May 20, 2:00 A.M.—8:45 P.M., 137 species, including Little Gull, and Willet. Route: unrecorded.

(14) David Brasser and Margaret Brasser.—May 21, 5:30 A.M.—9:00 P.M., 208 miles by car, 5 miles on foot, 108 species. Route: Horicon Marsh, Riveredge Nature Center, Harrington Beach, Woodland Dunes Nature Center, Manitowoc Harbor, Maywood Environmental Center.

(15) Joseph P. Hudick.—May 21, 4:40 A.M.—9:00 P.M., 350 miles by car, 2 miles on foot, 127 species, including Chuck-will’s-widow and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Route: Western Polk County, Northern St. Croix County, Crex Meadows, Fish Lake, Wisconsin Point.

(16) Debbie Risch, Paul Risch and Nick Risch.—May 22, 3:45 A.M.—9:00 P.M., 314 miles by car, 2 miles on foot, 145 species, including Western Sandpiper. Route: Pershing Wildlife Area, Miller Dam Flowage, Chequamegon National Forest, Mead Wildlife Area.

(17) Al Shea and Sue Shea.—May 22, 3:00 A.M.—11:00 P.M., 319 miles by car, 3 miles on foot, 166 species, including Western Grebe, Yellow Rail, Parasitic Jaeger, Chuck-will’s-widow, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Route: Brule River Corridor, Solon Springs, St. Croix Flowage, Gordon Barrens, Wisconsin Point, Fish
Lake, Grantsberg, Crex Meadows, Dresser.

(18) Larry Semo.—May 23, 4:00 A.M.—6:30 P.M., 140 miles by car, 3 miles on foot, 134 species, including Western Grebe. Route: Douglas County, Stones Bridge, Gordon, Wisconsin Point.


(20) Daryl Tessen.—May 28, 4:30 A.M.—10:00 P.M., 415 miles by car, 2 miles on foot, 138 species, including Eared Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow Rail, Chuck-will’s-widow, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Route: Newark Prairie, Sugar River, Cadiz Springs, Arlington Ponds, Wilson Pond, Oakbridge Lake, Crex Meadows, Dresser.

(21) Daryl Tessen.—May 29, 4:00 A.M.—8:30 P.M., 245 miles by car, 3 miles on foot, 157 species, including Yellow Rail, Black-backed Woodpecker, Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Route: Crex Meadows, Fish Lake, Gordon, Solon Springs, Stones Bridge, Winneboujou Bridge, Wisconsin Point.

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Northern Cardinal by Thomas R. Schultz
Red-necked Grebe by Thomas R. Schultz