Jordan Lake Spring Bird Count 2025

As was the case in 2024, the major influence on our May 4, 2025, Jordan Lake Spring Bird Count was the intermittent rain (mostly light, but sometimes heavy in some locations). Luckily, temperatures were mild, ranging from 62° to 68°F and the winds were variable from calm to 10 mph. The sky was overcast all morning, clearing in the afternoon.

Forty-five (45) observers in 26 parties participated (our 10-year averages are 47 and 23, respectively). We tallied 8,373 individual birds (avg. 8,147) in 118 species (avg. 118) in 122 party hours (avg. 122). These effort numbers show that in spite of the rainy weather, our dedicated observers can still do the job!

We missed a few species that we normally find—Rock Pigeon, Cooper’s Hawk, and Bobolink. However, we did find a few notable species:

* Scaup sp (too far away to determine which species, even with a photo)—2 found by Jonathan Cantrell.
* Least Sandpiper—1 found by Rick Payne.
* Caspian Tern—2 (likely the same birds) found by 2 parties (Alan Avakian and Matt Spangler)
* Great Egret—3 found by Kerry & Trish MacPherson

In spite of the weather, we set two new record highs.

* Chipping Sparrows—434 (previous record was 367 in 2023)
* Brown-headed Cowbirds—229 (previous record was 199 in 2012)

Noah Rokoske found 82 species in the area on the west side of the Jordan Lake Dam, while Jonathan Cantrell hit the 70 species mark in the area covering Harris Lake.

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 Bird Alliance website at: <https://newhopebirdalliance.org/get-outdoors/bird-counts/>

Norm Budnitz, compiler