

### **Banff**

**Date:** May 26, 27, 2012

**Compiler:** Brenda Lepitzki

**Participants:** Five groups with: Mike McIvor, Diane McIvor, Dwayne Lepitzki, Brenda Lepitzki, Nicola Koper, Michael Campbell, 9 U. of Manitoba students (in course REC/GEOG 4350 Parks and Protected Areas Planning and Management), Toni Hess, Tomo Fujimori, Jennifer Kleinitz, Jacques Beleyme, James Bannon, Michiko Shimizu, Peter Poole.

**Area Covered:** Banff area: Stables, Marsh Loop, Rainy Bay, Valleyview-Middle Springs Wetland, Vermilion Lakes, Johnson Lake, Lake Minnewanka. West of Banff: Johnston Canyon, Lake Louise townsite area and trails.

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 0 to 15°C

Wind speed: 1.6 to 4.8 km/hr. Wind direction: from West

Precipitation: None

Day 2: Temp. 0 to 20°C

Wind speed: 1.6 to 4.8 km/hr. Wind direction: from West

Precipitation: Sunny, then light rain in afternoon

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 194.9 km; by vehicle 141 km; on foot 53.9 km. Total Team Hours: 32.7 hr; by vehicle 5.67 hr; on foot 27.03 hr.

**Number of Species:** 89

**Number of Birds:** 648

### **Beauvais Lake Provincial Park**

**Date:** May 30, 2012

**Compiler:** Teresa Dolman

**Participants:** Douglas Dolman, Teresa Dolman

**Area Covered:** within park boundaries

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 10 to 15°C

Wind speed: 10 to 25 km/hr. Wind direction: W

Precipitation: nil

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 17.5 km; by vehicle 2; on foot 15.5 km. Total Team Hours: 9 hr; by vehicle 0.5 hr; on foot 8.5 hr.

**Number of Species:** 56

**Number of Birds:** 334

**Other species seen during count week:** none

**Highlights:** One advantage of camping overnight at the Park was being able to record a Barred Owl, which is only the second time this species has been recorded. As well, Sandhill Crane was seen for only the second time and Tennessee Warbler for only the third time.

### **BowKanBirders (Bow Valley)**

**Date:** May 26, 27, 2012

**Compiler:** Cliff Hansen

**Participants:** Charlotte Appendale, Kevin Barker, Dean Cooper, Jean Cooper, Nancy Davis, Ethan Denton, Neil Denton, Mary Dumka, Bert Dyck, Marilyn Dyck, Cliff

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Hansen, Margo Hansen, Chris Hunt, Fiona Koether, Jason Reid, Laura Reid, Rose Reid, Hanne Seidel, Anita Walker, Bill Wilson, Eva Zidek.

**Area Covered:** The BowKan Birders area is a circle centred south of Exshaw. The area takes in the Bow Valley from (and including) Bow River Campground, just East of Canmore, to Nakoda Lodge along Highway 1A, Seebe and along the Trans-Canada to the Highway 40 overpass. To the North, all the valleys and mountains from Grotto to short of Yamnuska are included. To the South, all the valleys and mountains including Wind Ridge, Pigeon, Heart, McGillivray, Lorette and Highway 40 south to the bridge over the Kananaskis river on the road to the Nakiska Lodge are included.

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 2 to 17°C

Wind speed: 5 to 15 km/hr. Wind direction: W

Precipitation: very light rain shower

Comments: very foggy in am

Day 2: Temp. 4 to 15°C

Wind speed: 5 to 15 km/hr. Wind direction: variable

Precipitation: nil

Comments: Pleasant

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 78 km; by vehicle 24; on foot 54 km. Total Team Hours: 72 hr; by vehicle 2 hr; on foot 70 hr.

**Number of Species:** 119

**Number of Birds:** 3211

**Other species seen during count week:** none

**Comments & Highlights:** Large number of American Redstarts and a new species (Eurasian Collared-Dove) for our area.

### **Brooks/Lake Newell**

**Date:** May 19, 20, 2012

**Compiler:** Bob Parsons

**Participants:** 46: Judy and Larry Boyd, Ann Carter, Dawne Colwell, Ray Cromie, Jean Dunn, Lenora and Dick Flynn, Eileen Ford, James and Gerry Fox, Bob Frew, Rob and Corlaine Gardner, Wes Grout, Linda Hajash, Andrew Hart, Dorothy Hazlett, John Jaworski, Mary and Allan Kimberly, Steve Knight, Georgie Leitch, John, Curtis and Michelle Manley, John and Joan Morgon, Bob Parsons, Jerry Pilney, Mike Potter, Armand Ramer, Gerald Romanchuk, Heather Ronnes, Trev Roper, Brian Stephens, Milt and Elaine Switzer, Les and Donna Trathen, Ben Velner, Arthur and Donna Wieckowski, Lois and Walter Zwick.

**Areas covered:** 20 mile circle radius based on N end of Lake Newell. Many ponds, reservoirs, native grassland, agricultural, urban, good woodlots. DU and EID areas very productive.

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 6 to 16°C

Wind speed: 10 to 25 km/hr. Wind direction: north

Precipitation: none

Comments: some cloudy periods, stronger wind in am. Calm pm

Day 2: Temp. 12 to 23°C

Wind speed: 5 to 10 km/hr. Wind direction: ne

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Precipitation: none

Comments: partly cloudy, not too windy

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 2024.5 km; by vehicle 1982; on foot 42.5 km. Total Team Hours: 177.5 hr; by vehicle 142 hr; on foot 35.5 hr.

**Number of Species:** 161 (+ 4 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 74581

**Other species seen during count week:** Northern Waterthrush, Dark-eyed Junco, Spotted Towhee, Belted Kingfisher.

**Highlights:** Unusual sightings include 46 Snow Geese, 1 Long-eared Owl, 1 Trumpeter Swan, 1 Hudsonian Godwit, 1 Ruddy Turnstone, 1 Fox Sparrow, 2 Dunlin, 5 Western Sandpiper.

High record numbers include 207 Greater Scaup, 423 American Wigeon, 21580 Franklin's Gull, 51 Eurasian Collared-Dove, 3 Burrowing Owl, 99 House Wren, 706 Common Grackle, 62 Baltimore Oriole, 115 Least Flycatcher, 10 Blue Jay. Records go back to 1999.

Low numbers of McCowan's Longspur, Grasshopper Sparrow, Whimbrel, Song Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Missing species include Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Short-eared Owl, Eastern Phoebe, kinglets, Western Tanager, Bobolink, Black-capped Chickadee, quite a few warbler species.

Sponsors: Cenovus, TransCanada Pipelines, Ducks Unlimited, Gerry and James Fox.

### **Buffalo Lake**

**Date:** May 26, 2012

**Compiler:** Lee Carothers

**Participants:** Lee Carothers, Wilma Zurfluh

**Areas covered:** north of Stettler.

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 10 to 15°C

Wind speed: 10 to 20 km/hr. Wind direction: S

Precipitation: none

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 37 km; by vehicle 35 km.; on foot 2 km. Total Team Hours: 5 hr; by vehicle 3 hr; on foot 2 hr.

**Number of Species:** 60

**Number of Birds:** 664

**Other species seen during count week:** Northern Flicker.

**Highlights:** Lots of Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets.

### **Calgary and area**

**Date:** May 26, 27, 2012

**Compiler:** Terry Poulton

**Participants:** Total: 71+: Tim Allison, Sid Andrews, Dan Arndt, Linda Bailey, John Bargman, Bruce Barnetson, Darren Batke, Mike Bentley, Lisa Bohach, Kingsley Blades, Henry Bordeleau, Al Borgardt, Barb Collister, Doug Collister, Barb Coote, Heather Csikos, Bernie Diebolt, Joel Duncan, Jean Dunn, John Duthie, Anne Elliott, Laura

Ewtushik, Cody Field, Lenora & Dick Flynn, Dave Gibson, Joerg Guildenfennig, Ian Halladay, Mike Harrison, Andrew Hart, Chris & Ken Havard, Howard Heffler, Frank Hennessey, Darlene Johanneson, Kim Kirillo, Bianka Koszler, Kumiko Kamiike, Terry Korolyk, Bob Lefebvre, Don Magnasson, Gary Malcolm, Pat Mitchell, Rose Painter, Jamey Podlubny, Terry Poulton, John Riddell, Phyllis and Erin Roberts, Mark Rubensohn, Jim St. Laurent, Jan Simonson, Destin Skauge, Andrew Slater, Ena Spalding, Pat Spiller, Carole Steeves, Don Stiles, Tamas Szabo, Tommy Thorsteinsson, Tony Timmons, Paul Turbot, David Vernon, Greg Wagner, Joan & Wayne Walker, Ray Wershler, Sam Williams, Robert Worona, Gus Yaki, Colin Young, various Inglewood Bird Banding Society.

**Area Covered:** 20114 sq km: a 80 km radius circle centered on the Centre Street Bridge in Calgary.

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 3 to 18°C.

Wind speed: 0 to 15 km/hr. Wind direction: from S, SW, W

Precipitation: none in most areas, light & mixed in foothills locally

Comments: Pleasant in most areas, variable clouds

Day 2: Temp. 2 to 13°C (most areas); -6 to 9°C (foothills)

Wind speed: 0 to 15 km/hr. Wind direction: from South

Precipitation: None in most places, sporadic rain and light drizzle in southern parts

Comments: mostly calm and cloudy, with variable wind, gusty

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 3762 km; by vehicle 3506 km.; on foot 256 km. Total Team Hours: 361 hr; by vehicle 181 hr; on foot 180 hr.

**Number of Species:** 218 (+4 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 84201 (+9 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** 1 Wild Turkey, at Sibbald Creek by J. Bentley; 1 Indigo Bunting, at Edgemont, 6 Sandhill Crane in Sheep River area, 1 Sedge Wren south of Sheep River, all reported by Ray Wershler.

**Highlights:** Species and individual numbers generally consistent with the previous averages, and species that have been regularly observed in small numbers were not seen, eg Stilt Sandpiper. Sabine's Gull was once again well represented, particularly at Red Deer Lake, and larger numbers of Black Tern, Bank Swallow and Cliff Swallow were seen at Frank Lake this year. White-faced Ibis appeared in record numbers at Frank Lake and south of Strathmore. The very large number of Franklin's Gulls recorded last year were present this year in unremarkable numbers due to high water levels in areas such as Frank Lake and Gladys lakes areas, as were California Gulls, even at Weed Lake. Cape May Warblers set another record high, and Townsend's Warbler were near their previous high. Chestnut-sided Warbler and Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen for the first time since at least 1999; Bobolink and White-winged Crossbill were at 12-year highs. A Broad-winged Hawk was seen again, as last year, the first records for at least 12 years. Owls were relatively well represented, in small numbers, with 12-year (at least) high numbers of Great Horned Owl, Great Gray Owl, and Northern Saw-whet Owl. House Finch achieved a record high, but this count is non-representative because suburban parts of the city are poorly covered by the count.

A highlight of the count this year was the participation of some new recruits, particularly from the Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park, and the Society for Life

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Long Learning Society, the latter two groups participating thanks to the efforts of Bob Lefebvre and Gus Yaki, and from Sid Andrews and staff of the City of Calgary's new Ralph Klein Park educational team. Welcome all and thank you.

### **Cardston**

**Date:** May 26, 2012

**Compiler:** Shirley Sillito

**Participants:** Wes Bascom, Kira Hinch, Liam Hinch, Maeran Hinch, Nadine Leavitt, Ruth Olsen, Ruth Le Roux, Vicki Romeril, Don Shaw, Wendell Shaw, Shirley Sillito, Michele Snyder, Mira Vanhala, Saska Vanhala, Nancy West, Delay Wight, Dorothy Wight.

**Area Covered:** Cardston, Kimball Park, Leavitt, Mountain View, Beazer, Police Outpost Provincial Park.

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 3 to 10°C

Wind speed: 6 to 17 km/hr. Wind direction: NNE

Precipitation: nil

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 403 km.; by vehicle 388 km.; on foot 15 km. Total Team Hours: 36 hr; by vehicle 17 hr; on foot 6 hr; watching feeders 13 hr.

**Number of Species:** 111 (+ 3 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 4083 (+ 3 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** (1) Sharp-shinned Hawk, (1) Wilson's Warbler, (1) Lazuli Bunting

**Highlights:** Two species were added to the over-all list for this count: Cooper's Hawk and American Pipit.

### **Central Alberta (Red Deer and area)**

**Date:** May 26, 27, 2012

**Compiler:** Judy Boyd

**Participants: 58** - Bud Bargholz, Jean Bargholz, Bill Barritt, Bev Barritt, Brenda Barritt, Vance Barritt, Brian Biggs, Karin Bjorge, Myron Bjorge, Jim Boyce, Judy Boyd, Larry Boyd, Dorothy Broadbent, Geoff Broadbent, Lois Burkinshaw, Claudia Cameron, Mike Cholach, Glynnis Croken, Amy Dale, Elizabeth Dale, Robin Dale, Marg Dewald, Holly Duvall, Darlene Emmons, Adam Finch, Eileen Ford, Jordan Ford, Laurel Ford, Stewart Ford, Alvin Goetz, Bernice Hafner, Robert Hall, Connie Haustein, Dorothy Hazlett, Bill Heinsen, Liz Heinsen, Patrick Hendrigan, Marlene Ironside, Roy Jamieson, Keith Kline, Linda Marshall, Gwen Marshall, April McSween, Ken Miller, Jackie Miller, Heather Montgomery, Susan Morris, Clint Nissen, Myrna Pearman, Doug Pedersen, James Peter, Bob Peterson, Linda Prokiw, Violet Rhine, Fred Schutz, Helga Sinton, Rick Varjassy, Diane Witton.

**Area Covered:** Zone 1 (Red Deer), Zone 2 (Sylvan Lake), Zone 3 (Gull Lake), Zone 4 (Lacombe), Zone 5 (EBF), Zone 6 (Pine Lake), Zone 7 (Penhold), Zone 8 (Dickson, MRWC), Zone 15 (Alix), Zone 16 (Lousana), Zone 17 (Bigelow Reservoir), Zone 19 (Bowden), Zone 21 (Crammond), Zone 26 (Dry Island Buffalo Jump), Zone 27 (Rocky Mountain House) and Hoadley area.

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 2 to 18°C

Wind speed: 5 to 35 km/hr. Wind direction: NW, SE, E

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Day 2: Temp. 2 to 18°C

Wind speed: 0 to 40 km/hr. Wind direction: S, SE, SE-SSE, NW, N

Comments: a few people mentioned wind gusts.

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 1222.7 km; by vehicle 1175.5 km; on foot 45.2 km; by canoe 2 km. Total Team Hours: 194 hr; by vehicle 78 hr, 55 min.; on foot 37 hr., 15 min, by canoe 2 hrs; sitting at a trail head 2.5 hrs. feederwatch 72 hr, 20 min.

**Number of Species:** 143

**Number of Birds:** 12910

**Highlights:** Highest recorded numbers since 2000: Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, American Kestrel, Sora, Sandhill Crane, Common Tern, Mourning Dove, Great Gray Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Raven, Marsh Wren, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow,

First time recorded since 2000: Mountain Chickadee, Rock Wren, Townsend's Solitaire,

Mammals: White-tailed Deer, Mule Deer, Richardson's Ground Squirrel, Porcupine, Moose, Coyote, Red Squirrel, Muskrat, and Snowshoe Hare.

Reptiles: Garter Snake.

Amphibians: Boreal Chorus Frog, and Wood Frog.

Insects: ladybug, honey bees, mosquito, bumblebee, Sulphur Butterfly, Spring Azure, Cabbage Butterfly, Tiger Swallowtail, Meadow Fritillary, Mourning Cloak, Disc Alpine, Northern Pearl Crescent, wasps.

### **Claresholm**

**Date:** May 26, 27, 2012

**Compiler:** Grace Norgard

**Participants:** Jason Attwell, Ruth Attwell, Rob Chisholm family, Gary Cotter family, Carley Egger, Hayley Egger, Kerri Hart, Audrey Helmer, Betty Hoare, Mike Hoare, Lawrence Hutchinson, Anola Lang, Joan Larson, Leo Larson, Stan Lewis, Debbie Lozeman, Judy Lucas, Arnold McCulloch, Ellis Norgard, Grace Norgard (compiler), Jack Peacock, Al Williams, Dee Williams, Rosemary Wishart

**Area Covered:** 40-km radius of Claresholm.

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 5 to 13°C

Wind speed: 11 to 20 km/hr. Wind direction: NE

Precipitation: nil

Day 2: Temp. 4 to 6°C

Wind speed: 9 to 17 km/hr. Wind direction: NNE

Precipitation: 4 mm

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 508 km.; by vehicle 506 km.; on foot 2 km. Total Team Hours: 69 hr; by vehicle 27 hr; on foot 3 hr; watching feeders 39 hr.

**Number of Species:** 119 (+7 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 4140 (+7 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** Western Wood-Pewee, Say's Phoebe, Warbling Vireo, Brown Creeper, Tennessee Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting

**Highlights:** The single Turkey Vulture was a new species for this count, which is in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year. But this was not just any Turkey Vulture; it had a blue metal disc with the

number 63 on one wing and subsequent investigation revealed that this bird had been captured and tagged on January 4, 2007 at the Maracaibo Zoo in Maracaibo, Venezuela!

Another highlight was 3 Broad-winged Hawks, seen for only the second time on this count.

### **Cold Lake Area Bird Count**

**Date:** May 26, 27, 2012

**Compiler:** Ted Hindmarch

**Participants:** 13: Bill Bretsch, Jim Davies (Calgary), Ron & Nancy Donnelly, Chris Etue (Rapid View, Sask), Ted Hindmarch (Gibbons), Al Holte, Del Huget (Edmonton), Richard Klauke (Vilna), Phil Shore, Jean MacDonald (Cold Lake), Norm Parrish (Bonnyville), Geoff Peruniak (Athabasca). Feeder watcher: Ron Donnelly, Carol Hummerstone, Mado Shore.

**Area Covered:** 25Mi RADIUS COUNT CIRCLE CENTER 5327.30N 11030.00W Cold Lake Provincial Park Cold Lake Centre Bay, English Bay, North Bay, HorseShoe Bay and Marina, Jesse Lake, Moose Lake, Angling Lake, Ethel and Marie Lake, Manitokan Lake, Margaurite Lake, Tucker Lake. This covered areas within WR51-55, WR40-45, WR33-34, WR10-11, and WR01, WR02-04, WR12-15, WR 22-25

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 1 to 20°C

Wind speed Calm to 17 km/hr. Avg 4 km/hr Wind direction: Calm/S

Precipitation: N/A, Clear

Comments: Temps slightly below seasonal average (8C, 20C), however, weatherwise, one of best count days in several years.

Day 2: Temp. 3 to 20°C

Wind speed: Calm to 25 km/hr. Avg 8 km/hr. Wind direction: Calm/SE

Precipitation: N/A, Clear

Comments: Temps again slightly below seasonal average(8C-21C). Another perfect birding day.

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 1158.8 km; by vehicle 1083 km; on foot; 32.2 km; by canoe 8 km, bike 20.1 km. Total Team Hours: 96.75 hr; by vehicle 70.75 hr; on foot 20 hr; by canoe 4 hr, bike 2 hr. Feeder Watch: Plus 8 hr - 3 participants

**Number of Species:** 166 (+11 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 13736 (+13 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** 11: Greater White-fronted Goose (1), Surf Scoter (1), Yellow-billed Loon (1), American Bittern (2), American Three-toed Woodpecker (1), Golden-crowned Kinglet (1), Gray Catbird (1), Nashville Warbler (1), Blackpoll Warbler (1), Nelson's Sparrow (2), White-winged Crossbill (1).

**Highlights:** With temperature highs ranging up to near seasonal averages (although lows remained below average), clear skies, and relatively light warm breezes from the south, the 2012 count proved to be one of the best we have had weather wise. The group enjoyed evening get togethers at the Marina View on Friday night and on the patio of the new Marina restaurant on the Saturday evening to coordinate and discuss Day 1 results, and on day 2 available personnel met at A&W to tally species and determine what was still missing for further CW efforts. Overall the count results for species diversity were low to average with 176 species tallied when CW birds were included. This number of

species for the count is on the lower side of our average, and it took significant effort to get up to that number.

Two new count additions were added this year. A count week adult breeding plumaged Yellow-Billed Loon observed by Ted Hindmarch on Cold Lake 24 May, and Long-Eared Owl initially discovered by Del Huget and Al Holte between Cold Lake north and Cold Lake south on count weekend with the pair and nest site later verified by Ted Hindmarch, Richard Klauke and Jim Davis. We also had excellent views of our C list species Sabines Gull (21) on the water only 50-60 yards offshore to the east of the Marina, other C list species noted were Caspian Tern (3), Cinnamon Teal (1) plus a hybrid Cinnamon-Blue Wing Teal (1) and a Hooded Merganser. Cinnamon Teal and Hooded Merganser have been showing up on our last two counts. A small flock of late migrating Snow Geese flew over, and a single White-Fronted geese was still being in the area on CW. A Peregrine Falcon was also a great bird for the Jesse/Charlotte Lake area.

Shorebird sightings again this year were few and far apart, with most observations for the Jesse Lake and sandy wetlands in the La Corey, Iron River area.

With the exception of Red-Tailed Hawk, the raptors sightings were low this year, although a B list Peregrin Falcon was observed during count week.

Many of the flycatcher and wood warbler species were just starting to move into the area and weekend sightings were few and widely separated, with the Provincial Park providing the best returns.

### **The Crowsnest Pass Birding Festival**

**Date:** May 26, 27, 2012

**Compiler:** Marilyn Liddell (Data entry: Pat Lucas)

**Participants:** Denise Cocioloni-Amatto, Shirley Enzsol, Becky Giesler, Dawn Hall, Marilyn Liddell, Pat Lucas, Raymond Toal, Nel van Kamer, Chris Weickert, Feeder Watchers: Jonty Caroe, Carol Hungar, Shirley Linderman, David McIntyre, Jim Rennie, Christopher Smith, Peter Sherrington.

**Area Covered:** from Summit Lake at BC/Alberta border west to junction of Highway 3 & Secondary Highway 510; north on North Burmis Road to the Gap. Specific Locations covered - Day 1: Willow Drive and wetlands to the west, Allison Road, Tent Mountain Road, Summit Lake, area within Crowsnest Pass municipal boundaries from East Hillcrest Bridge to the wetlands between Coleman and Blairmore. Day 2: North Burmis Road to the Gap, Lundbreck area and Todd Creek, west to Cowley.

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. -3° C to 8 ° C

Wind speed: 7 to 14 km/hr. Wind direction: NNE

Precipitation: none

Day 2: Temp. 5° C to 7 ° C

Wind speed: 7 to 19 km/hr. Wind direction: NNE

Precipitation: occasional light rain

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 383 km; by vehicle 376.5 ; on foot 6.5 km.

Total Team Hours: 19 hr; by vehicle 5.5 hr; on foot 13.5 hr.

**Number of Species:** 118 (+ 2 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 2340 (+ 2 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** Northern Pygmy Owl, Purple Finch



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Mammals: Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Red Squirrel, Red Fox, Beaver, Muskrat, Elk, Moose, Big-horned Sheep, Snowshoe Rabbit, Richardson Ground Squirrel

**Highlights:** Observing American Redstarts, Wilson's Warbler & Townsend's Warbler - in no hurry to fly away - in a secluded area at the south end of Summit Lake; adding three Upland Sandpipers, 30 Horned Grebes and a Marbled Godwit to our count

### **Fort McMurray/Wood Buffalo Wild Bird Club**

**Date:** June 2, 3, 2012

**Compiler:** Cathy Mountain

**Participants:** Tom Klein, Simone Marler, Cathy Mountain, Joan Skilnick, Steven Stryde.

**Area Covered:** urban, roadside, hiking trails, horse pasture, mixed forest, riverside, ponds/slough, lakes, gravel pit, peat moss pit, muskeg, landfill. 1 yard/feeder counted.

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 12 to 27 °C

Wind speed: calm/7 km/hr. Wind direction: N

Precipitation: none

Comments: Sunny in am/ partly cloudy in afternoon.

Day 2: Temp. 10 to 15 °C

Wind speed: 11km in am, 19 km/hr. in pm. Wind direction: SW in am; W in pm

Precipitation: light rain in afternoon

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 228 km; by vehicle 194 km; on foot 34 km.

Total Team Hours: 25.75 hr; by vehicle 8.75 hr; on foot 17 hr.

**Number of Species:** 104

**Number of Birds:** 1780

**Highlights:** Please note, not an accurate count, not all numbers were received.

### **Lac La Biche**

**Date:** May 26, 27, 2012

**Compiler:** Jennifer Okrainec

**Participants:** Bob & Mary Dunn, Bernie Gauthier, Jacqueline Gauthier, Ted Johnson, Marion Kuncio, Dave and Kathy Lawson, Linda, Annette Maccagno, Clara McArthur, Jennifer & Muriel Mueller, Mary Teslin, Clark Watson, Don & Jean Welke, George and Barbara Ann Wicker

**Area Covered:** Lac La Biche Count Circle

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 1.4 to 20.5°C

Wind speed: 0 to 17 km/hr. Wind direction: SW

Precipitation: 0

Day 2: Temp. 3.4 to 19.8°C

Wind speed: 2 to 19 km/hr. Wind direction: SW

Precipitation: 0

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 853 km; by vehicle 835km; on foot 18 km.

Total Team Hours: 80 hr; by vehicle 70 hr; on foot 10 hr.

**Number of Species:** 132 (+2 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 14950 (+2 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** Snow Goose, Brown Thrasher.

## **Lethbridge**

**Date:** May 26, 27, 2012

**Compiler:** Graeme Greenlee

**Participants:** Linda Cerney, Douglas Dolman, Teresa Dolman, Nishantha Ganeshapriya, Graeme Greenlee (compiler), Pat Greenlee, Ryan Heavy Head, Chinthaka Kaluthota, Mira Vanhala, Jay Yanke.

**Area Covered:** Various parks and residential areas within the city of Lethbridge, as well as Park Lake Provincial Park, Keho Lake, Fort Macleod area, Magrath area.

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 3 to 12°C

Wind speed: 8 to 22 km/hr. Wind direction: NNE

Precipitation: nil

Day 2: Temp. 3 to 6°C

Wind speed: 15 to 25 km/hr. Wind direction: NNE

Precipitation: 11 mm

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 135 km; by vehicle 90; on foot 45 km.

Total Team Hours: 30 hr; by vehicle 4 hr; on foot 26 hr.

**Number of Species:** 109 (+ 7 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 3790 (+ 8 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** (1) Cooper's Hawk, (2) Violet-green Swallow, (1) American Redstart, (1) Northern Waterthrush, (1) Lark Sparrow, (1) White-crowned Sparrow, (1) Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

**Highlights:** Despite being slightly below average for number of species, three "new" species were added for the Lethbridge count: Wood Duck, Dusky Flycatcher and Great Egret. For only the second time: Greater Scaup, Cassin's Finch and Red Crossbill were seen, and for only the third time: MacGillivray's Warbler.

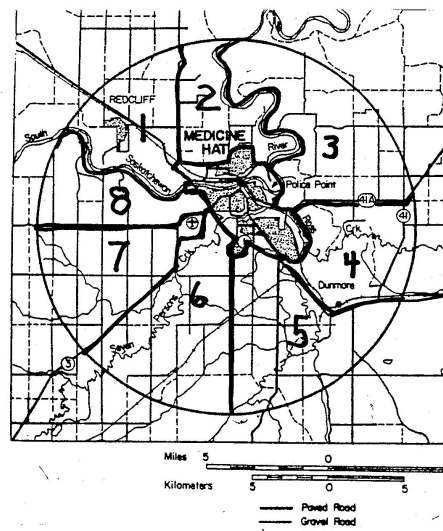
## **Medicine Hat**

**Date:** May 27, 2012

**Compiler:** Marty Drut

**Participants:** Barry Anderson, Judy Anderson, Rick Carrier, Marty Drut, Mackenzie Fai, Bob Frew, Corlaine Gardner, Rob Gardner, Ashley Hart, Annalora Horch, Phil Horch, Dale Holmes, Jim Knelson, Cam Lockerbie, Jim Marshall, Gary Martin, Valerie Martins, Michael O'Shea, David Parberry, Colton Prins, Dan Schiebelbein, Mark Schiebelbein, John Slater, Milt Spitzer, Julie Tingley, Michael Velnor. Feeder Watchers: Calvin Eddy, Lorraine Marshall.

**Area Covered:**



**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 3 to 6°C

Wind speed: 10 to 30 km/hr. Wind direction: E

Precipitation: 20 mm.

Comments: Cold, wind, and rainy

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 484.5 km; by vehicle 415 km; on foot 69.5 km. Total Team Hours: 69.75 hr; by vehicle 32.25 hr; on foot 37.5 hr.

**Number of Species:** 113 (+ 1 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 7740 (+ 1 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** Magnolia Warbler

**Highlights:** The main highlight for 2012 was the weather; the count day high was 6° C, there was about 20 mm of rain throughout the day, and the wind blew steadily (up to 30 km/hr) from the E-NE, making for a challenging day. Despite the poor conditions, 113 species were observed, which is only about 15% lower than the average for the past 4 years. As might be expected, numbers of individual birds were low relative to 2008-2010 counts. No new species were observed.

Some species missing from this year's count that are usually observed were Double-crested Cormorant, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Veery, Orange-crowned Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Baird's Sparrow.

Less frequently seen species observed in 2012 and not in 2011 included Golden Eagle (2), MacGillivray's Warbler (3), Red Crossbill (1), and Pine Siskin (1).

There were only 2 species with recorded high counts in 2012 whereas 7 species had recorded low counts; one species, Double-crested Cormorant, was not observed for the second year in a row after being observed in all other years (see Table 1 below).

The top five species for 2012 were: Ring-billed Gull (842), American Robin (628), European Starling (562), Red-winged Blackbird (505), and Rock Dove (486).

A Magnolia Warbler was seen exclusively during count week.

As for flowers in bloom, there were 65 species observed, which is well above average for the spring count. Likely, the wet spring translated into more wildflowers observed.

The number of participants decreased again from 2011 but hours of observation and distances driven and covered on foot were greater or comparable to last year (see Data Summary Table below). Many thanks to all those who volunteered their time this year!

Table 1. 2012 Spring Bird Count All Time High and Low Observations.

<b>2012 Spring Bird Count – Highs and Lows</b>			
<b>Species</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Previous High</b>	<b>Year</b>
Wilson's Phalarope	57	50	2004
Pileated Woodpecker	3	2	2010, 2008
<b>Species</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Previous Low</b>	<b>Year</b>
Double-crested Cormorant	0	0	Second consecutive year none observed; 2

			or more observed in all previous count years
American Kestrel	5	8	1987
Willet	2	4	2011, 2006
Marbled Godwit	6	7	1997, 1987
Horned Lark	1	11	2007
Cliff Swallow	3	7	2001, 1988
Brown Thrasher	6	10	2004
Common Yellowthroat	7	8	1989

<b>DATA SUMMARY – 2008 to 2012</b>					
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Total Individuals	7,740	7,801	13,123	10,297	11,170
Total Bird Species	113	126	139	127	142
Total Flower Species	65	46	53	32	33
Participants	26	32	35	25	30
Total Km Walked	69.5	71	86	76	95
Total Km Driven	415	215	294.5	236	293
Hours of Observation	69.75	62.75	86	86.25	95.25
on foot:	32.25	39.25	52.5	50.5	60.25
by car:	37.5	23.5	33.5	35.75	35.0
feeder:	5	6	4	2	2

**Milk River/Writing-on-Stone**

**Date:** May 26, 27, 2012

**Compiler:** Bob Parsons

**Participants:** 7 participants

**Area Covered:** Sec Rd 501, Sec Rd 500. Verdigris Coulee, Crow Indian Lake, Etzicom Coulee, West Pakowki Lake, Vernon Flats, Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, Coutts, Milk River township.

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 2 to 12°C

    Wind speed: calm

    Precipitation: none

Day 2: Temp. 0 to 6°C

    Wind direction: N/NE

    Precipitation: some sleet and snow

    Comments: Cloudy, ice conditions in am. Clearing pm but still chilly.

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 791 km; by vehicle 785.5; on foot 5.5 km.

Total Team Hours: 51 hr; by vehicle 46 hr; on foot 5 hr.

**Number of Species:** 130 (+ 1 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 19265

**Other species seen during count week:** Song Sparrow

**Highlights:** Common Poorwill, Burrowing Owl, Rusty Blackbird, Long-eared Owl, White-faced Ibis (80), Eared Grebe (2330), Lark Bunting (171), Bobolink (20), Ferruginous Hawk (11), Sanderling (40)

Missing in 2012: American Bittern, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Short-eared Owl, Black-capped Chickadee.

### **Taber-Vauxhall**

**Date:** May 26, 27, 2012

**Compiler:** Lloyd Bennett

**Participants:** Lloyd Bennett (compiler), Mary Bennett, Yolanda Bennett, Glen Gardner, Murray Gardner, Ben Tams, Carol Tams, Gideon Tams, Jacki Tams, Jude Tams, Nolan Tams.

**Area Covered:** Taber and Vauxhall areas, Purple Springs Dunes.

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 5 to 14°C

Wind speed: 6 to 13 km/hr. Wind direction: NNE

Precipitation: none

Day 2: Temp. 4 to 6°C

Wind speed: 11 to 16 km/hr. Wind direction: NE

Precipitation: 12 mm

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 589 km; by vehicle 578; on foot 11 km.

Total Team Hours: 31 hr; by vehicle 19.5 hr; on foot 11.5 hr.

**Number of Species:** 127 (+ 2 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 6760 (+ 11 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** Common Nighthawk (1), Cedar Waxwing (10).

**Highlights:** Red-breasted Merganser was seen for only the third time on this count.

### **Wakomao Lake**

**Date:** May 26, 2012

**Compiler:** Jim Lange

**Participants:** Vince Cottrell, Jim Lange (compiler), Fred Whiley

**Area Covered:** agriculture farmland, lake, marsh, ponds, mixed boreal forest with mainly Black Spruce, White Spruce & Jackpine areas. Access is very good with a network of Range & Township roads dissecting the area slightly larger than a 10 km square.

**Weather:** Temp. 6 to 20°C

Wind speed: 25 km/hr. Wind direction: SSE

Precipitation: steady light rain by noon, snow by 7:00 p.m.

Comments: sunny

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 75 km. driven Total Team Hours: 10 hr driven.

**Number of Species:** 65

**Number of Birds:** 557

### **Waterton Lakes National Park**

**Date:** June 2,3, 2012

**Compiler:** Teresa Dolman

**Participants:** Lloyd Bennett, Yolanda Bennett, Linda Cerney, Douglas Dolman, Teresa Dolman (compiler), Donna Dubbelboer, John Dubbelboer, Annalora Horch, Phil Horch, Lois Everett, Ken Moore, Ken Orich, Cyndi Smith, Jay Yanke.

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**Area Covered:** Within Park boundaries

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 13 to 16°C

Wind speed: 15 to 37 km/hr. Wind direction: SW

Precipitation: 2 mm

Day 2: Temp. 9 to 17°C

Wind speed: 7 to 32 km/hr. Wind direction: SW

Precipitation: nil

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 306.5 km; by vehicle 273 km; on foot 33.5 km. Total Team Hours: 53.5 hr; by vehicle 19.5 hr; on foot 33.5 hr; watching feeders 0.5 hr.

**Number of Species:** 115

**Number of Birds:** 1792

**Other species seen during count week:** none

**Highlights:** The number of species recorded (115) was well above the long-term average of 104. Brown Thrasher was seen for only the second time and Brown Creeper for only the third time.

### Winfield

**Date:** May 26, 27, 2012

**Compiler:** Charles D. Bird, Ann L. Bird

**Participants:** Charles D. Bird, Ann L. Bird

**Area Covered:** 8 km NW of Winfield, AB. East Poplar quarter, mixed woods.

**Weather:** Temp. 16 to 18°C

Comments: scattered cloud

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Hours: 5.5 hr.

**Number of Species:** 11

**Number of Birds:** 20

**Highlights/comments:** Species other than birds seen: Northern Flying Squirrel (1), White-tailed Deer (2) and Snowshoe Hare (2).

### Yamnuska

**Date:** May 26, 2012

**Compiler:** Mike McIvor

**Participants:** Duncan Bayne, Diane McIvor, Mike McIvor, Peter Poole, Michiko Shimizu, Reno Sommerhalder, Andrea Sommerhalder, Isha Sommerhalder, Gareth Thomson, Jack Whitworth, Eva Zidek.

**Area Covered:** base of Mt. Yamnuska

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 0 to 13°C

Wind speed: 0 to 15 km/hr. Wind direction: west

Precipitation: very brief showers

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 50 km; by vehicle 28; on foot 22 km. Total Team Hours: 18 hr; by vehicle 1 hr; on foot 17 hr.

**Number of Species:** 55

**Number of Birds:** 269