

**Banff National Park**

**Date:** May 26, 27, 2013

**Compiler:** Brenda Lepitzki

**Participants:** McIvor group: Mike McIvor, Diane McIvor, Ed Frost, Jacques Beleyne.  
Poole group: Peter Poole, Tomo Fujimori. U. Manitoba group: Michael Campbell,  
Nicola Koper, Michael Bell, Jenny Yoo, plus 2 undergraduate students. Community Bird  
Walk group: Jason Rogers and 17 others.

**Area Covered:** McIvor group: Valleyview Middle Springs wetland, Cave and Basin,  
Vermilion Lakes road, Lake Minnewanka loop, Johnson Lake area. Poole group: Cave  
and Basin, slopes of Cascade Mtn (Cascade Falls to 40 Mile Creek). U. Manitoba group:  
Johnson Lake. Community Bird Walk group: Recreation grounds (stables), Marsh Loop,  
Sundance Canyon road to Philosopher's Pond and Bow River, Cave and Basin marsh.

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 2 to 15°C

Wind speed: 6 to 12 km/hr. Wind direction: from west.

Precipitation: None, some dew and moisture from rain in night.

Comments: Sky partly cloudy, scattered all day.

Day 2: Temp. 1 to 13°C

Wind speed: 4 to 5 km/hr. Wind direction: from west.

Precipitation: None.

Comments: Sky at 09:30 partly cloudy.

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 31 km; by vehicle 6 km; on foot 25 km  
Total Team Hours: 25.5 hr; by vehicle 0.5 hr; on foot 25 hr.

**Number of Species:** 87 (+ 20 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 633 (+203 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** Gadwall, Pied-billed Grebe, Black-bellied  
Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Red-necked Phalarope, Bonaparte's Gull, Sabine's Gull,  
Forster's Tern, Black Tern, Barred Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, Say's Phoebe, Horned  
Lark, White-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Bunting,  
Bobolink, Western Meadowlark, House Sparrow.

**Beauvais Lake Provincial Park**

**Date:** May 28, 2013

**Compiler:** Teresa Dolman

**Participants:** Douglas Dolman, Teresa Dolman (compiler), Peter Sherrington

**Area Covered:** roads and many trails within Park.

**Weather:**

Day 1: Temp. 9 to 17°C

Wind speed: 4 to 15 km/hr. Wind direction: variable

Precipitation: trace

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 18.5 km; by vehicle 2 km; on foot 16.5 km.  
Total Team Hours: 10.5 hr; by vehicle 0.5 hr; on foot 10 hr.

**Number of Species:** 64

**Number of Birds:** 432

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

**Highlights:** One new species was seen for this count, and a rare find indeed. Two  
observers heard a Virginia Rail vocalizing loudly in a marshy area at the end of Beauvais

Lake. One of the observers returned the next day and managed to see the bird briefly. Wilson's Warblers were seen for only the second time for this count, which is in its 17<sup>th</sup> year.

**BowKanBirders (Bow Valley)**

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

**Compiler:** Cliff Hansen

**Participants:** Kevin Barker, Dene Cooper, Jean Cooper, Ethan Denton, Neil Denton, Stephen Denton, Monica Dragoz, Mary Dumka, Joel Duncan, Ron Dutcher, Bert Dyck, Marilyn Dyck, Wayne Haas, Cliff Hansen, Margo Hansen, Laura Reid, Rose Reid, Shane Reid, Joan Saunders, Hanne Seidel, Anita Walker, Bill Wilson.

**Area Covered:** The designated area is a 15 km diameter circle centered on the north face of Mount McGillivray (excluding the Yamnuska Natural Area covered by the Bow Valley Naturalists)

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 2.5 to 13°C

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

Precipitation: Nil but threatening

Comments: Blustery

Day 2: Temp. 5 to 15°C

Wind speed: Light Wind direction: W

Precipitation: Nil but threatening

Comments: Sun and Cloud

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 152 km; by vehicle 83 km; on foot 69 km. Total Team Hours: 87 hr; by vehicle 3 hr; on foot 84 hr.

**Number of Species:** 123

**Number of Birds:** 3214

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

**Comments & Highlights:** With regard to birds, our count of 3214 birds covering 123 species was above the averages of 2876 birds covering 120 species calculated from the data of our 21 spring counts. Again the 40 species seen on all previous counts were identified (detailed lists of this and subsequent comments have been covered in previous newsletters). The list of "seen on only one count" is now 32 species. Two new species, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (found in the Lac des Arcs area) and a Bay-breasted Warbler (Kananaskis Country) were added to this list. This was partially off-set with a second identification (by the unique "tictictic" call) of a Yellow Rail in a south Bow Valley Provincial Park pond (previous identification on the 1994 spring count). The total number of species identified on all our spring counts now stands at 236. Statistics may be interesting but they do not tell the whole story of an individual count. I follow with a few specific highlights. Where numbers are cited, they are displayed as: (latest count number/overall average count).

For the 4<sup>th</sup> time, there were no Gulls or Terns and for the 7<sup>th</sup> time there were no Waxwings reported by any of our observers. My available records of weather conditions prior to 2005, is incomplete, but unsettled weather conditions prior to most of those counts are indicated. Other indicators of the late spring were lower counts of Canada Geese, especially goslings (238/302), Mallards (45/117), American Robins (89/134) and

many species were identified from a “one bird” sighting. There appeared to be an abundance of Robins prior to the last snow storm and fewer after. On the other hand, larger numbers of other migrating birds more than made up for the above lower counts. The most notable in this category are Cliff Swallows (761/171), followed by; American Coots (53/24), Rock Pigeons (53/17), Ruby-crowned Kinglets (120/69), Tree Swallows (132/56), American Pipits (30/7), and Chipping Sparrows (149/126). Other highlights were the fourth count sightings of a Trumpeter Swan and 7 Surf Scoters, and a third count sighting of a Lesser Yellowlegs.

### **Brooks/Lake Newell**

**Date:** May 18/19 2013

**Compiler:** Bob Parsons

**Participants:** Judy and Larry Boyd, Ann Carter, Dawne Colwell, Leonora and Dick Flynn, Gerry and James Fox, Bob Frew, Mira Furgoch, Wes Grout, Janice Hulbert, John Jaworski, Al and M Kimberley, Michelle, Curtis and John Manley, Mike Mulligan, Bob Parsons, Jerry Pilney, Coleen Raymond, Gerald Romanchuk, Heather Ronnes, Adrienne and Dean Schipperus, Martin and Trisha Sharpe, Liz Singbell Milt and Elaine Spitzer, Brian Stevens, Ben Velner, Greg Wagner, Paula Whitman, Donna and Arthur Wieckowski, Walt and Lois Zwick, and others.

**Area Covered:** Brooks, Lake Newell, Rolling Hills, Scandia, Rainier, Duchesse, Tide lake, Tilly Lake, Kitsim reservoir, Cassils, Bantry 1 and 2, Kinivie Marsh.

#### **Weather:**

Day 1: Temp. 6 to 19°C

Wind speed: 10 to 20 km/hr.

Precipitation: some light showers

Day 2: No information given

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 1606 km; by vehicle 1576.5 km; on foot 29.5 km. Total Team Hours: 188.75 hr; by vehicle 165.25 hr; on foot 23.5 hr.

**Number of Species:** 167

**Number of Birds:** 53,833

**Highlights:** Special mention 152 Pine Siskin, 161 Sprague's Pipit, 18 Lark Sparrow, 135 Cinnamon Teal, 6400 Black-bellied Plover, 79 Spotted Sandpiper, 2 Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl. Full results posted at [www.edmontonnatureclub.ca](http://www.edmontonnatureclub.ca)

### **Buffalo Lake**

**Date:** May 25, 26, 2013

**Compiler:** Lee Carothers

**Participants:** Buffalo Lake Naturalists

**Area Covered:** sloughs of Stettler, South of Stettler at Hebert Lake Conservation Area, SE12-40-17-W4 yard and feeder

**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 10 to 15°C

Wind speed: 10 to 40 km/hr. Wind direction: NW

Precipitation: moderate, light rain at Hebert Lake

Comments: cold and windy; heard more than seen at Hebert Lake

Day 2: Temp. 15 to 20°C

Wind speed: 0 to 10 km/hr. Wind direction: S

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www.naturealberta.ca

Precipitation: none  
**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 24 km; by vehicle 20 km; on foot 1 km  
Total Team Hours: 7 hr; by vehicle 2 hr; on foot 5 hr.  
**Number of Species:** 51  
**Number of Birds:** 516

### **Calgary and area**

**Date:** May 25, 26, 2013

**Compiler:** Terry Poulton

**Participants: Total: 88+:** Participants: Gus Yaki, Aileen Pelzer, Marie-Paule Caron Daze, Brenda Cherrington, Trevor Churchill, Marie Coultis, Yvonne Klaver, Sue Konopnicki, Joe Novecosky, Rose Painter, John Stegeman, David Vernon, Marje Wing, Bernie Diebolt, Deanna Downton-Jullyan, Anne Belton, Helen Hebb, Jennifer Hilborne, Jim St. Laurent, Joy Eli, Brenda Hurst, Jennifer Spencer, Rebekah Sayers, Wayne & Joan Walker, Lorrie & John Anderson, Peter Comfort, Lynn Wilsack, Bob Lefebvre, Dan Arndt, David Vallance, Anand Singh, Paul Turbitt, Linda Kelly, Leanne Dalderis, Louise Bennet, Graeme Bennet, Lise Guha-Thakurta, Gary Malcolm, Kingsley Blades, Marian Swatschina, Mike Bentley, Darlene Johanneson, Tommy Thorsteinsson, Ena Spalding, John Bargman, Tony Timmons, Howard and Lyn Heffler, Al Borgardt, Aaron Alford, Sid Andrews, Sandy Ayer, Laura Ewtushik, Mike Mulligan, Amy Darling, Jan Simonson, Brian Elder, Ray Woods, Jamey Podlubny, Terry Poulton, Andrew Slater, Frank Hennessey, Rich and Lynn Moore, Tim Allison, Mark Rubensohn, Bill Wilson, Phillip Cram, Lenora & Dick Flynn, Jerry Pilny, Linda Bailey, Colin Young, Terry Korolyk, Anne Elliott, Wayne McGonicle, Nimali Seneviratne, Monica Thomas, David Vernon, Mike Harrison, Mike Smith, Robert Worona, Don Stiles, David Pugh, Ken and Chris Havard, Bruce Barnetson, Dave Gibson, Ian Halladay, Don Magnusson, Jean Dunn, Pat Mitchell, Jim Foley, Jack Blair, Jim St Laurent, and others. Additional specific contributions from Bob Storms, Lane Robson, Sally Quon, the Inglewood Bird Banding Society thanks to Michelle Dagg and Doug Collister, and various contributors to AlbertaBird and eBird. Recruitment of new interested individuals has continued impressively. Welcome all and thank you.

**Area Covered:** 20114 sq km: a 80 km radius circle centered on the Centre Street Bridge in Calgary. The urban area is poorly covered except for the natural park areas.

### **Weather:**

Day 1: Temp. 0 to 17°C, cooler in Foothills.

Wind speed: 0 to 35 km/hr.

Precipitation: some rain.

Comments: Sunny with Cloudy Periods, locally overcast, gusty winds in Foothills

Day 2: Temp. -1 to 23°C, cooler in Foothills.

Wind speed: 0 to light in most places .

Precipitation: None in most places.

Comments: Sunny, calm, to variable cloud. High water levels and muddy roads and trails in some places, snow in shade and high in Foothills

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 3891 km; by vehicle 3660 km.; on foot 231km. Total Team Hours: 376 hr; by vehicle 188 hr; on foot 188 hr.

**Number of Species:** 220 (+3 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 63782 (+79 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** 51 Sabine's Gulls and 11 Whimbrels were reported by Joan and Malcolm Macdonald and Jerry Pilny at Frank Lake May 24. Richard Clarke watched a flock of 17 Parasitic Jaegers in Basin 2 at Frank Lake (Area 36) in the late morning of Tuesday, May 28. This is probably an unprecedented-sized flock of this species in the Province (from AlbertaBird).

**Highlights:** 1 Arctic Tern – Brian Elder & Ray Woods, Harmattan Reservoir, documented on AlbertaBird. A Sage Thrasher was seen by Sid Andrews, Laura Ewtushik and Mike Mulligan in the City of Calgary in SE Calgary (see AlbertaBird). 21 Red-throated Loons were reported by Tim Allison and Amy Darling from Barrier Lake along Highway 40. Pat Mitchell reported an Eastern Bluebird brooding eggs, and mated with a male Mountain Bluebird north of Big Hill Springs Provincial Park, which must have been in the area during the count. These were all recorded on AlbertaBird.

6 Lark Sparrows were reported from Irricana area by Kingsley Blades. Rob Worona reported a Gray-cheeked Thrush from near Mossleigh, and Lenora and Dick Flynn reported one from Eagle Lake Campground. Lenora and Dick Flynn reported 3 White-winged Scoters, from Eagle Lake. Jim Foley, Jack Blair and Jim St Laurent reported a Western Bluebird from west of Airdrie.

[Note: A possible Bar-tailed Godwit, and Tri-colored Heron are no longer considered to be valid (discussions on AlbertaBird)]

### **Cardston**

**Date:** May 25, 26, 2013

**Compiler:** Nancy West

**Participants:** Bob Gurr, Jackie Gurr, Laurel Hansen, Kiera Hinch, Liam Hinch, Mary Jane Jensen, Ruth LaRue, Nina Neville, Jess Olsen, Fran Salt, Ralph Salt, Wendel Shaw, Shirley Sillito, Howard Snyder, Michele Snyder, Nancy West (compiler)

**Area Covered:** Towns of Cardston, Hillspring, Leavitt and Mountain View; Woolford Park; and countryside southeast of Cardston and west of Mountain View

### **Weather:**

Day 1: Temp. 8 to 15°C

Wind speed: 11 to 24 km/hr. Wind direction: W

Precipitation: 0 mm

Day 2: Temp. 5 to 19°C

Wind speed: 6 to 9 km/hr. Wind direction: NW

Precipitation: 0 mm

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 514 km.; by vehicle 495 km.; on foot 19 km. Total Team Hours: 49 hr; by vehicle 33 hr; on foot 16 hr.

**Number of Species:** 121

**Number of Birds:** 3799

**Highlights:** The long-term average number of species for this count (now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year) is 98 species, so the 121 species seen this year is well above average. In addition, three new species were added to the list: American Dipper, Orange-crowned Warbler and

Spotted Towhee. For the second time only, Forster's Tern, Eastern Phoebe and Sprague's Pipit were recorded.

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

**Date:** May 25, 26, 2013

**Compiler:** Judy Boyd

**Participants: 50** - Stanley (Bud) Bargholz, Jean Bargholz, Brian Biggs, Karin Bjorge, Myron Bjorge, Tony Blake, Jim Boyce, Judy Boyd, Larry Boyd, Dorothy Broadbent, Geoff Broadbent, Tanner Broadbent, Lois Burkinshaw, Phil Burkinshaw, John Caddy, Mrs. Dumont, Lauren Dumont, Francisco Echegaray, Francisco Echegaray Jr., Santiago Echegaray, Adam Finch, Eileen Ford, Stewart Ford, Rhonda Gower, Annette Gray, John Gray, Bernice Hafner, Bill Heinsen, Selina Hicks, Jessie Kinley, Amanda Lasiuta, Natasha Lasiuta, Joyce Lemke, Jim Leslie, David MacKenzie, Mary MacKenzie, Mark Meunier, Ruby Meunier, Heather Montgomery, Jean Orchison, Myrna Pearman, Doug Pedersen, Arthur Pendle, Haven Pendle, Trinity Sedum, Yvonne Sedum, Eric Sinton, Helga Sinton, Mike Skene, Rick Varjassy.

**Area Covered:** 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 10 (Medicine Lodge Hills), Zone 12 (Crestomere), Zone 15 (Alix), Zone 16 (Lousana), Zone 17 (Bigelow Reservoir), Zone 18 (Spruce Coulee), Zone 19 (Bowden), Zone 25 (Trochu), Zone 26 (Dry Island Buffalo Jump), and Zone 27 (Rocky Mountain House).

#### **Weather:**

Day 1: Temp. 4 to 20°C

Wind speed: 5 to 45 km/hr. Wind direction: NW, N, WSW, S

Day 2: Temp. -1 to 20°C

Wind speed: 2 to 30 km/hr. Wind direction: S, SE, ESE, NW, W, E

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 1270.2 km; by vehicle 1241.6 km; on foot 28.6 km. Total Team Hours: 79 hr, 5 minutes; by vehicle 54 hr, 45 min.; on foot 22 hr., 20 min. 15 min. feederwatch 31 hr, 25 min.

**Number of Species:** 146 (+3 CW)

**Number of Birds:** 12373 (+44 CW)

**Highlights:** Highest recorded numbers since 2000: Double-crested Cormorant, Swainson's Hawk, American Kestrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Forster's Tern, Pileated Woodpecker, Western Wood-Pewee (tied with 2010's count of 8 birds), Bank Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush (tied with 2010's count of 7 birds).

First time recorded since 2000: Snow Goose, White-faced Ibis (CW), Broad-winged Hawk, Sanderling, Baird's Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo (CW)

Number of participants was down from last year's 58 but the number of bird species was up from last year's 143. The count of individual birds was down from last year's 12910.

### **Claresholm**

**Date:** May 25, 26, 2013

**Compiler:** Grace Norgard

**Participants:** Jason Attwell, Ruth Attwell, Adrienne Bolton, Chris Bolton, Rob Chisholm, Robbin Chisholm, Gary Cotter, Nola Cotter, Carley Egger, Hayley Egger, Mary Ann Elford, Norm Elford, Kerry Hart, Audrey Helmer, Betty Hoare, Mike Hoare, Anola Lang, Joan Larson, Leo Larson, Stanley Lewis, Debbie Lozeman, Judy Lucas, Arnold Mcaulay, Ellis Norgard, Grace Norgard (compiler), Jack Peacock, Rosemary Wishart

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

**Weather:**

Day 1: Temp. 8 to 17°C

Wind speed: 13 to 30 km/hr. Wind direction: W

Precipitation: 0 mm

Day 2: Temp. 5 to 20°C

Wind speed: 4 to 13 km/hr. Wind direction: SW

Precipitation: 0 mm

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 604 km.; by vehicle 602 km.; on foot 2 km.

Total Team Hours: 41 hr; by vehicle 26 hr; on foot 1 hr; watching feeders 14 hr.

**Number of Species:** 126 (+4 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 6301 (+5 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** Western Wood-Pewee, American Redstart, White-throated Sparrow, Pine Grosbeak.

**Highlights:** The long-term average number of species for this count (now in its 34<sup>th</sup> year) is 115, so the 126 species seen this year is well above average. In addition, one new species was added to the list, Red-breasted Merganser. Tundra Swan was recorded for only the second time, and Rough-legged Hawk, Indigo Bunting and Red Crossbill for only the third time in this count's history.

**Cold Lake Area Bird Count**

**Date:** May 25, 26, 2013

**Compiler:** Ted Hindmarch

**Participants:** 9: Ron & Nancy Donnelly, Phil Shore, Al Holte (Cold Lake); Ted Hindmarch (Gibbons); Chris Etue (Rapid View, Sask); Richard Klauke (Vilna); Del Huget (Edmonton); Jim Davis (Calgary); Feeder watch x 3 Mado Shore; Carol Hummerstone; Tom Cook

**Area Covered:** 20Mi RADIUS COUNT CIRCLE CENTER 5427.30N 11030.00W Cold Lake Provincial Park English Bay, North Bay, HorseShoe Bay and Marina, Jesse and Charlotte Lake, Bearthooth Lake, Moose Lake, Angling Lake, Ethel and Marie Lake, Manitokan Lake, Margaurite Lake, and 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. 8 to 16°C

Wind speed 13 to 35 km/hr. Avg 25 km/hr Gusts to 45-50 km/hr Wind direction: E/ENE

Precipitation: 12mm: Scattered Light Rain Showers through day, Evening Thunderstorm, rain

Comments: Temps near seasonal average (8C, 20C), however very breezy and scattered drizzle periods and heavy thunderstorm in evening made for poor passerine count activity.

Day 2: Temp. 7 to 19°C

Wind speed: Calm to 17 km/hr. Avg 11 km/hr. Wind direction: Calm/East/ESE

Precipitation: N/A, Scattered to Mostly Cloudy

Comments: Temps near seasonal average(8C-20C). Winds moderated and much better birding day. Fog in early morning hours after the evening/overnight rain.

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 1129.5 km; by vehicle 1096.5 km; on foot; 33 km. Total Team Hours: 101.45 hr; by vehicle 68.95 hr; on foot 22.5 hr;. Feeder

Watch: Plus 10 hr - 3 participants

**Number of Species:** 167 (+ 7 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 13098

**Other species seen during count week:** 7: Eurasian Wigeon, American Bittern, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Brown Creeper, Nashville Warbler, Mourning Warbler.

**Highlights:** With a breezy Friday and a wet Friday evening, the count weekend started out with disappointing weather conditions and results on Saturday – windy and wet. For those able to participate on the Sunday, however, it was a much improved day. The Saturday night thunderstorm had resulted in a warbler fallout and the SSE and East winds had blown in both some species not observed Saturday but also some unexpected species. With the late Spring and early count week dates, the count results for species diversity were below average with only 174 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 by our fewer participants this year to get up to that number. On Saturday we fielded 7 parties, most working singly. Sunday saw only 3 teams in the field.

This year we had our first confirmed report (R. Klauke) of Lark Sparrow in the count circle (we have had an unconfirmed report on one previous count). We also had our second only reports of C list species: Lark Bunting (R Klauke –photo), with CW sightings of Whimbrel (R Klauke and T Hindmarch) and Eurasian Wigeon (D Huget). A pair of C List Tundra Swans (immature 2yr birds) were also noted on Margaurite Lake (T Hindmarch, R Klauke). Other C list species noted were Hooded Merganser(3), Sabine's Gulls (88), Caspian Tern (1), plus a hybrid Green Winged-Common Teal (1). Single or pairs of late migrating Snow Geese were noted in 3 locations, along with 2 Ross's Geese in another location. A single Greater White-Fronted Goose was also in the area. Also suspected observations of a Grey-Cheeked Thrush, a calling Varied Thrush and a possible Arctic Tern from reliable birders were noted as unconfirmed and only included in thrush, tern species category.

Shorebird sightings again this year were few and far apart, with most observations for the Jesse Lake and from wetlands in the La Corey, Iron River area. A bonus, however, was the previously mentioned Whimbrel, and reports of B list Hudsonian Godwits and L-B Dowitchers.



Raptors sightings were improved this year, with B list reports of a high migrating Swainson's Hawk and a Peregrine Falcon as highlights of the observations. Northern Goshawk again a no show.

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 for diversity on the Sunday morning after the storm. Jim Davis described his count Sunday in the park as one of his best warbler watching days ever. This fallout enabled all expected species to be reported on, although a couple of species were only observed on CW.

### **Crooked Lake**

**Date:** May 25, 26, 2013

**Compiler:** Joan Sherman

**Participants:** Deirdre Griffiths, Jack Sherman, Joan Sherman

**Area Covered:** Secs. 19, 30, 31, TWP 68, R 23 w/4<sup>th</sup> and Secs. 24, 25, TWP 68, R 24 w/4<sup>th</sup>. Lake, slow flowing stream, marsh, willow thicket, black spruce/larch treed fen, white spruce and aspen poplar forest, old-growth mixedwood forest, gravel road and cultivated fields.

#### **Weather:**

Day 1: Temp. 8 to 12°C

Wind speed: 10 to 15 km/hr. Wind direction: SE

Precipitation: 12 mm afternoon and evening

Comments: cloudy; afternoon showers and intermittent heavy rain and thunder showers

Day 2: Temp. 8 to 15°C

Wind speed: 0 to 10 km/hr. Wind direction: SE

Precipitation: 2 mm

Comments: sun and cloud with afternoon showers

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 32 km; by vehicle 6; on foot 26 km. driven  
Total Team Hours: 24 hr; by vehicle 1 hr; on foot 23 hr.

**Number of Species:** 70 (+8 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 673 (+8 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** Surf Scoter, Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel, Bonaparte Gull, Barred Owl, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Swainson's Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

### **The Crowsnest Pass 2013**

**Date:** May 29, 30, 2013

**Compiler:** Marilyn Liddell, Pat Lucas

**Participants:** Mike Bentley, Denise Coccioloni-Amato, Shirley Enzsol, Kevin Knight, Marilyn Liddell, Pat Lucas, Phil Nicholas, Raymond Toal, Nel van Kamer, Chris Wiekert.

**Area Covered:** from Summit Lake at BC/Alberta border west to junction of Highways 3 & 22, north on 22, then west and north on side roads 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: Hwy 22 and connectors to the Gap, returning on North Burmis Road, Todd Creek area

**Weather:**

Day 1: Temp. 7 to 20°C

Wind speed: 15 to 4 km/hr. Wind direction: NNE

Precipitation: none

Day 2: Temp. 7 to 14°C

Wind speed: 20 to 19 km/hr. Wind direction: NNE

Precipitation: occasional light rain

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 270 km; by vehicle 257; on foot 13 km.

Total Team Hours: 20 hr; by vehicle 6 hr; on foot 14 hr.

**Number of Species:** 117 (+ 9 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 2428 (+ 19 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** Snowy Egret, Cooper's Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Western Kingbird, Steller's Jay, Hermit Thrush, MacGillivray's Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole + MAMMALS: moose, moose calf, red squirrel, mule deer, muskrat, Columbian ground squirrel, beaver, white-tailed deer, bighorn sheep, coyote, black bear, elk, cougar

**Highlights:** Snowy Egret at Summit Lake during count week; 2 Harlequins at the Gap; a young black bear at Todd Creek.

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

**Date:** June 1,2, 2013

**Compiler:** Simone Marler

**Participants & Area Covered:**

1. Cathy Mountain: Timberlea (yard)
2. Simone & Blaine Marler: Hwy 63 ponds south of Fort McMurray to Hwy 881 turnoff; Gregoire Lake Provincial Park; Gregoire Lake Estates; Cheecham Reserve & regional park; Anzac Day Use area; Anzac townsite & sewage lagoons; Stony Mountain connector road and old Anzac sewage lagoons; Maqua Lake PP; Prairie Ck & horse stables
3. Jane Elser, Dawn Hall, Jean D'Souza, Danna Schock; Becka Baldwin
  - a. Fort McMurray Golf Course
  - b. Tower Road
  - c. Hwy 63 north including Rock Circle Pond, Fort Hills Seep, Marsh Marigold Stream, Pat's Ponds; Jenny Pond/Peter Lougheed Bridge, Crane Lake
4. Steven Stryde: Birchwood Trails & Hwy 63 North
5. Christine Hersey: Saprae Creek yard
6. Alan Reeve: Taiganova Industrial Park (just north of FMM)

**Weather:**

Day 1: Temp. 14 to 18°C

Wind speed: Beaufort 2 to 4 (gusty over lake, quieted as day progressed) 12 km/hr.

Wind direction: S,SE

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Precipitation: Thunder showers in morning (Gregoire L PP)  
Comments: overcast/low cloud  
Day 2: No information available

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 170 km; by vehicle 140 km; on foot 30 km.  
Total Team Hours: 44 hr.  
**Number of Species:** 104  
**Number of Birds:** 2277

### **Kateneno Natural Area, Athabasca**

**Date:** May 26, 2013  
**Compiler:** Lu Carbyn  
**Participants:** Lu Carbyn, Ed Mah-Lim  
**Area Covered:** Kateneno Natural Area, Athabasca  
**Weather:**

Temp. 8-18°C  
Wind speed: 20-25 km/hr.  
Wind direction: S  
Comments: partly cloudy  
**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 5 km; Total Team Hours: 3 hr.  
**Number of Species:** 29  
**Number of Birds:** 394

### **Lac La Biche**

**Date:** May 25, 26, 2013  
**Compiler:** Jennifer Okraïneec  
**Participants:** Jennifer Okraïneec, Jacob Okraïneec, Bernie & Millie Gauthier, Don & Jean Welke, George & Barbara Ann Wicker, Bob & Mary Dunn, Clara McArthur, Mary Teslin, Muriel & Jennifer Mueller, Dave Philips  
**Area Covered:** Lac La Biche south to Elinor Lake, West to Missawai/Plamondon, North to Avenir/owl River area, East to and including Lakeland Provincial Park.  
**Weather:** Day 1: Temp. 9 to 16°C

Wind speed: 10 to 23 km/hr. Wind direction: E  
Precipitation: 0  
Comments: Partly Cloudy, gusting winds  
Day 2: Temp. 10 to 17°C  
Wind speed: 3 to 10 km/hr. Wind direction: SE  
Precipitation: 0

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 720 km; by vehicle 715 km; on foot 5 km.  
Total Team Hours: 79 hr; by vehicle 75 hr; on foot 4 hr.  
**Number of Species:** 125  
**Number of Birds:** 4736  
**Highlights:** Golden Eagle and Peregrine Falcon

### **Lethbridge**

**Date:** May 25, 26, 2013

Nature Alberta  
www.naturealberta.ca

**Compiler:** Graeme Greenlee

**Participants:** Linda Cerney, Douglas Dolman, Teresa Dolman, Frank Russell, Catharine Russell, Frances Schultz

**Area Covered:** Various parks within Lethbridge, Keho Lake, Park Lake PP, Schultz farmstead near Monarch, Russell farmstead near Lethbridge airport, Fairfield Gardens & Jail Lake.

**Weather:**

Day 1: Temp. 9 to 17°C

Wind speed: 24 to 42 km/hr. Wind direction: WSW

Precipitation: 0 mm

Day 2: Temp. 6 to 20°C

Wind speed: 5 to 22 km/hr. Wind direction: WSW

Precipitation: 0 mm

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 130 km; by vehicle 115; on foot 15 km.

Total Team Hours: 19 hr; by vehicle 3 hr; on foot 16 hr.

**Number of Species:** 108 (+ 2 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 4001 (+ 2 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** Wilson's Warbler, Lazuli Bunting

**Highlights:** One new species was added to this count, now in its 37<sup>th</sup> year, and that was White-winged Crossbill. Both species of crossbills were common in Lethbridge throughout the previous winter, and both were still around this spring. Trumpeter Swan and Wood Duck were recorded for only the second time and American Tree Sparrow and Red Crossbill for only the third time. Two species seen for 36 years but missed this year were Northern Harrier and Brown Thrasher.

### **Medicine Hat**

**Date:** May 26, 2013

**Compiler:** Kathleen Hilsden

**Participants:** Marina Anaenostakos, Barry Anderson, Judy Anderson, Darlene Black, Jim Black, Dakota Buck, Rick Carrier, Bob Colley, Corlaine Gardner, Rob Gardner, Ray Gaudet, Sue Higgins, Kathleen Hilsden, Jim Knelson, Cam Lockerbie, Dave Mackenzie, Jim Marshall, Valerie Martins, Judy Morris, Martha Munz Gue, Mike O'Shea, David Parberry, Jo-Anne Reynolds, Mark Schiebelbein, Angela Slater, John Slater, Elaine Spitzer, Milt Spitzer, Donna Steele, Julie Tingley, Ben Velner, Mike Velner.

**Area Covered:** Medicine Hat and area.

**Weather:**

Day 1: Temp. 11 to 21°C

Wind speed: 15 to 20 km/hr.

Precipitation: none

Comments: cloud cover 10%

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 299.6 km; by vehicle 198.8 km; on foot 100.8 km. Total Team Hours: 71.08 hr; by vehicle 21.83 hr; on foot 59.25 hr.

**Number of Species:** 130

**Number of Birds:** 7426

**Highlights:**

The main highlight for 2013 was the weather; the count day high was 21° C and the breeze was relatively calm (only reaching up to 20 km/hr). Overall, there were 130 species of birds observed, which is slightly over the average number of species observed over the past 5 years.

32% of the individual species had greater numbers compared to their past two years, 28% stayed on par, and 32% of recorded individual species declined in numbers compared to the past 2 years.

The Semipalmated Sandpiper, Common Redpoll, Herring Gull, Townsend's Solitaire, Grey-cheeked Thrush, and Western Tanager all made big comebacks after missing for 8, 15, 5, 14, 8, and 10 years.

There were 9 species with recorded high counts in 2013, and only 2 with recorded low counts. 9 species with record highs: Prairie Falcon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Semiplamated Sandpiper, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, Red-eyed Vireo, Savannah Sparrow, Red Crossbill and Common Redpoll. 2 species with record lows: American Coot and Killdeer. Some species missing from this year's count that are usually observed were the Eared Grebe, Cooper's Hawk, Common Tern, and Warbling Vireo.

The top five species for 2013 were: European Starling (793), Canada Goose (615), American Robin (555), Red-winged Blackbird (438), and House Sparrow (432).

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

**Date:** May 25/26

**Compiler:** Bob Parsons

**Participants:** Jordan Lange, Michelle, Curtis and John Manley, Ken Orich, Audrey Orich, Bob Parsons, Toby Ann Reimer, Donna and Arthur Wieckowski

**Area Covered:** Coutts, Milk River, Pinhorn Grazing reserve, Pakowki Lake, Crow Indian Coulee, Etzicom Coulee, TWP 500 and 501

**Weather:**

Day 1: Temp. 8 to 17°C

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

Precipitation: x

Day 2: Temp. 3 to 18°C

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

Precipitation: x

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total team mileage: 1209 km; by vehicle 1186 km; on foot 13 km. Total team hours: 72 hr; by vehicle 59.5 hr; on foot 12.5 hr.

**Number of Species:** 145

**Number of Birds:** 20465

**Highlights:** 284 Sanderling, 60 Marbled Godwit, 438 Red-necked Phalarope, 776 Gadwall, 1000 Northern Shoveler, 450 American Avocets, 1 Yellow-breasted Chat, 24 Long-billed Curlew.

### **Taber-Vauxhall**

**Date:** May 25, 26, 2013

**Compiler:** Lloyd Bennett

**Participants:** Lloyd Bennett (compiler), Yolanda Bennett, Glen Gardner, Ben Tams, Carol Tams, Gideon Tams, Jackie Tams, Jude Tams, Nolan Tams

**Area Covered:** Taber & Vauxhall areas, Purple Springs Dunes

**Weather:**

Day 1: Temp. 5 to 20°C

Wind speed: 20 to 35 km/hr. Wind direction: WSW

Precipitation: 0 mm

Day 2: Temp. 8 to 21°C

Wind speed: 4 to 13 km/hr. Wind direction: WSW

Precipitation: 0 mm

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 479 km; by vehicle 472; on foot 7 km.

Total Team Hours: 33.5 hr; by vehicle 19 hr; on foot 6.5 hr; watching feeders 8 hr.

**Number of Species:** 135 (+ 5 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 7287 (+ 14 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** Prairie Falcon, Sanderling, Baird's Sandpiper, Orange-crowned Warbler, White-throated Sparrow

**Highlights:** Two new species were seen for this count. First, a single White-faced Ibis showed up at Taber Lake just prior to the count and was seen Saturday morning there. The other new species was the Red Crossbill. A single bird was found in Taber and a pair was seen flying over the M.D. of Taber Park. Red Crossbills were abundant last winter and it seems that small numbers remained in the area. We were lucky to find over a dozen kinds of migrating birds that greatly helped the total. These included 2 kinds of shorebirds, 3 Snow Geese, 5 warblers, 3 thrushes, and other songbirds such as Western Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Some of the prairie birds were hard to find, perhaps because they were not singing, but 27 Lark Buntings were good to see after being scarce for a while.

### **Wakomao Lake**

**Date:** May 26, 20123

**Compiler:** Jim Lange

**Participants:** Jim Lange

**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. 8-21°C

Wind speed: 20-25 km/hr.

Wind direction: S

Comments: mix of sun and clouds

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 80 km. Total Team Hours: 9.5 hr.

**Number of Species:** 66

**Number of Birds:** 958

**Waterton Lakes National Park**

**Date:** June 1, 2, 2013

**Compiler:** Teresa Dolman

**Participants:** Bruce Anderson, Lloyd Bennett, Yolanda Bennett, Sheila Clark, Douglas Dolman, Teresa Dolman (compiler), Dave Elphinstone, Ellen Gasser, David Musto, Catherine Reynolds

**Area Covered:** All roads and picnic areas, Maskinonge Lake by canoe, bison paddocks, town site, trail around Linnett Lake, Belly River Campground

**Weather:**

Day 1: Temp. 3 to 16°C

Wind speed: 11 to 33 km/hr. Wind direction: SW

Precipitation: nil

Day 2: Temp. 6 to 14°C

Wind speed: 0 to 22 km/hr. Wind direction: variable

Precipitation: 16.4 mm

**Team Distance/Hours:** Total Team Mileage: 344 km; by vehicle 330 km; on foot/canoe 14 km. Total Team Hours: 34 hr; by vehicle 23 hr; on foot/canoe 11 hr.

**Number of Species:** 115 (+1 cw)

**Number of Birds:** 1427 (+2 cw)

**Other species seen during count week:** (2) Western Wood-Pewee

**Highlights:** Over its 29 year history the average number of species recorded during the count is 104, so the 115 species seen this year is well above average. No new species were added to the historical list, but for the second time only, Willet and Yellow-breasted Chat were recorded, and for the third time only, Hammond's Flycatcher and Bullock's Oriole were tallied. Some species normally seen but missed this year on count days were Golden Eagle, Western Wood-Pewee and Eastern Kingbird. Seven Sandhill Cranes highlighted by the evening sun as they were flying over Maskinonge Lake, with their calls echoing off the mountains, were a definite highlight for two birders visiting from the Calgary area.