

## 2013 May Species Count for Birds

By Judy Boyd

The number of species went up this year: 275 this year from 272 last year. However, the number of individual birds went down: 209,381 this year from 257,605 last year. In 2012, the most numerous species was Franklin's Gull with 38,894. Second was Cliff Swallow with 15,953 and third was Canada Goose with 10,752. This year, the most numerous species was again Franklin's Gull with 15,441, second was Canada Goose with 10,685 and third was Red-winged Blackbird with 10,083.

This year, 30 species were found in only one location around the province: Virginia Rail was seen at Beauvais Lake Provincial Park; Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch was seen at BowKanBirders; Eurasian Wigeon, Red Knot, Dunlin, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl were each seen at Brooks; Red-throated Loon, American Golden-Plover, Western Sandpiper, Arctic Tern, Eastern Bluebird, Western Bluebird, and Sage Thrasher were each seen at Calgary; Northern Saw-whet Owl was seen at Central Alberta; Indigo Bunting was seen at Claresholm; Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross' Goose, Sabine's Gull, Sedge Wren, Blackburnian Warbler were each seen at Cold Lake; Dusky Grouse, Black-chinned Hummingbird were each seen at Crowsnest Pass; Black-backed Woodpecker, Mourning Warbler were each seen at Fort McMurray; Bohemian Waxwing, Nelson's Sparrow were each seen at Lac La Biche; Common Redpoll was seen at Medicine Hat; Spruce Grouse and Stellar's Jay were each seen at Waterton.

16 species were found in 2 locations around the province: Harlequin Duck, Yellow Rail, at BowKanBirders and Cold Lake; Red-breasted Merganser at Claresholm and Cold Lake; Hudsonian Godwit at Cold Lake and Calgary; Pectoral Sandpiper and Great Gray Owl at Central Alberta and Calgary; Short-billed Dowitcher at Central Alberta and Brooks; Northern Pygmy Owl at Calgary and Crowsnest Pass; short-eared Owl at Milk River/Writing-on-Stone and Taber-Vauxhall; Chestnut-sided Warbler at Cold Lake and Lac La Biche; Black-throated Green Warbler, Palm Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Canada Warbler each seen at Cold Lake and Fort McMurray; Harris's Sparrow at Brooks and Medicine Hat; McCown's Longspur at Brooks and Milk River/Writing-on-Stone.

Last year we had only one species in all areas. This year we had five species in all areas: Canada Goose, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Wilson's Snipe and Tree Swallow. Last year eight species were found in all but one area, and six species were found in all but two areas. This year seven species were found in all but one area: Bufflehead, Sora, Black-billed Magpie, American Robin, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-coloured Sparrow and Red-winged Blackbird. This year eleven species were found in all but two areas: American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Red-tailed Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Crow, Common Raven, Yellow Warbler, Savannah Sparrow and Brown-headed Cowbird.