

Spring 2014 Bird Count Results

Judy Boyd

The number of species went down this year: from 275 last year to 273 this year but the number of individual birds went up: 237, 010 this year from 209,381 last year. In 2013, the most numerous species was the Franklin's Gull with 15,441. Second was the Canada Goose with 10,685 and third was the Red-winged Blackbird with 10,083. This year, the most numerous species was again the Franklin's Gull with 34,585. Second was the Red-winged Blackbird with 11,647 and third was the Canada Goose with 9908.

This year, 30 species were found in only one location around the province: Red Crossbill was seen at Banff; Northern Hawk-Owl, Golden-crowned Sparrow were seen at BowKanBirders; Surf Scoter, Clark's Grebe, Ruddy Turnstone, Sabine's Gull, Arctic Tern, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Barred Owl, Lewis' Woodpecker (count week (cw)), and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch were each seen at Calgary; Black-chinned Hummingbird was seen at Cardston; Long-eared Owl, and Northern Saw-whet Owl were each seen at Central Alberta; Glaucous Gull, and Sedge Wren were each seen at Cold Lake; Wild Turkey and Western Bluebird were each seen at Crowsnest Pass; Magnolia Warbler was seen at Fort McMurray; Tundra Swan was seen at Lac La Biche; Dunlin, Bohemian Waxwing were each seen at Lethbridge; Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shrike and Common Redpoll were each seen at Medicine Hat; Western Sandpiper, Northern Mockingbird and Sage Thrasher were each seen at Milk River/Writing-on-Stone; Pine Grosbeak was seen at Waterton.

13 species were found in 2 locations around the province: Peregrine Falcon at Calgary and Milk River; Yellow Rail at Calgary and Cold Lake; Hudsonian Godwit at Brooks and Calgary; Common Nighthawk at Cold Lake and Crowsnest Pass; Black-backed Woodpecker at Cold Lake and Fort McMurray; Pacific-slope Flycatcher at Calgary and Waterton; Philadelphia Vireo at Central Alberta and Lac La Biche; American Dipper at Calgary and Crowsnest Pass; Gray-cheeked Thrush at Calgary and Medicine Hat; Nashville Warbler at Cold Lake and Crowsnest Pass; Connecticut Warbler at Cold Lake and Lac La Biche; Mourning Warbler at BowKanBirders; McCown's Longspur at Brooks and Milk River/Writing-on-Stone.

Last year we had five species in all areas. This year we had 10 species in all areas: Canada Goose, Mallard, Sora, American Coot, Northern Flicker, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, American Robin, Chipping Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbird.

Last year seven species were found in all but one area, and eleven species were found in all but two areas. This year fifteen species were found in all but one area: American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Downy Woodpecker, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Clay-coloured Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow and Brown-headed Cowbird. This year eight species were found in all but two areas: Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Swainson's Thrush, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Song Sparrow.

Highlights and details of each specific count can be found at www.naturealberta.ca.