

Banff National Park

Date: Day 1 24 May 2014 (Banff Community Birdwalk), and Day 2 25 May 2014 (all other groups). Count Week data only from 26 May 2014 (Banff Community Birdwalk).

Compiler: Brenda Lepitzki

Participants: Total number = 25: McIvor group: Mike McIvor, Diane McIvor, Jacques Beleyne, Ed Frost. Banff Community Birdwalk (Day 1) group: 14 participants (incl. Amar Athwal, Jacques Beleyne, Jennifer Kleinitz, Jason Rogers). University of Manitoba group: Nicola Koper, Amy Flasko, and 3 students. Truscott group: Shirley Truscott, Gary Truscott.

Area Covered:

Weather:

Day 1: Temp. 6 to 20 °C

Wind speed: unknown. Wind direction: unknown

Precipitation: None, sky overcast to partly overcast

Day 2: Temp. 8 to 15°C

Wind speed: 6.4 to 11.3 km/hr. Wind direction: from West

Precipitation: Light rain in first hour then dry rest of day. Sky overcast to partly sunny.

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team Mileage: 111.5 km; by vehicle 80 km; on foot 31.5 km. Total Team Hours: 20.75 hr; by vehicle 3.25 hr; on foot 17.5 hr.

Number of Species: 68 (+ 5 cw)

Number of Birds: 481 (+5 cw)

Other species seen during count week: American Widgeon, Cooper's Hawk, Cliff Swallow, Boreal Chickadee, Swainson's Thrush.

Highlights: Univ. Manitoba group: Rufous hummingbird.

Beauvais Lake Provincial Park

Date: May 27, 2014

Compiler: Teresa Dolman

Participants: Douglas Dolman, Teresa Dolman (compiler)

Area Covered: roads and many trails within Park.

Weather:

Day 1: Temp. 14 to 19°C

Wind speed: 15 to 19 km/hr. Wind direction: west

Precipitation: none

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team Mileage: 9 km; by vehicle 0 km; on foot 9 km. Total Team Hours: 7 hr; by vehicle 0 hr; on foot 7 hr.

Number of Species: 59

Number of Birds: 307

Other species seen during count week: none

BowKanBirders (Bow Valley)

Date: May 24, 25, 2014

Compiler: Cliff Hansen

Participants: Kevin Barker, Dene Cooper, Jean Cooper, Ethan Denton, Monica Dragoz, Cliff Hansen, Margo Hansen, Calvin Koether, Feona Koether, Max Koether, Grace

Lebel, Melferine McCulloch, Jason Reid, Laura Reid, Rose Reid, Hanne Seidel, Anita Walker, Bill Wilson, Eva Zidek

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. 9 to 20°C

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

Precipitation: Nil

Comments: Pleasant day

Day 2: Temp. 10 to 22°C

Wind speed: 5 to 20 km/hr. Wind direction: W_var

Precipitation: light rain showers

Comments: Pleasant day

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team Mileage: 147 km; by vehicle 73 km; on foot 74 km.

Total Team Hours: 87 hr; by vehicle 3 hr; on foot 84 hr.

Number of Species: 107 + 1 cw

Number of Birds: 2658 + 1 cw

Other species seen during count Week: One migrating Western Meadowlark

Comments & Highlights: Northern Hawk Owl, Mourning Warbler (both a 2nd on counts since 1992).

At least two factors combined to limit a high count this spring. The winter of 2013/2014 was rather harsh and spring 2014 arrived late. Also the last full weekend in May occurred a week before the end of the month. The combined effects provided less spring weather to allow bird migration and flowering plant time to arrive and develop. Trees showed little evidence of leaf development and most flowering plants were in early stages of development. No Cedar Waxwings were reported until after the count period. As a result, lower count numbers were expected. The weather during the count period was finally pleasant and some birds were back and some blooming plants were found. Our organization, created in 1993, has accumulated records for 22 counts. This provides a good historical data base to establish reasonably stable statistical numbers. Specific counts may fluctuate, sometimes wildly, from count to count but with a good data base, changes in the averages will be small and over time trends may become apparent. With regard to birds, the latest average of 2866 individual birds covering 119 species varies only slightly from last year's averages. Apart from averages and statistics, our count contained some interesting highlights, a few are recounted below.

This year 39 of the 40 species of birds seen on all previous counts were reported.

Missing this year was the European Starling. They were seen here earlier but they must have taken a dislike to our spring weather and departed. Of the remainder, the count was down on 30 of the 39 species. The most notable example is the Pine Siskin, we only found two while our long term average is over 100. Overall, the number of birds per species was down, but there were exceptions. The most notable examples are the Cliff Swallow with 900 (our highest count ever) and the Chipping Sparrow with 277 (our 2nd highest count) birds reported. The averages for each are 204 and 133 respectively. Also on the positive side, the list of "reported on only one count" was reduced by two to 30

species. Off the list are the Northern Hawk Owl and Mourning Warbler (both previously reported on the 2008 Spring Count). Finally, our count contains a sighting (from me) on the last day of the count week of a Western Meadowlark. This species has been reported on half our counts so it is not so unusual but still it is a delightful find. Overall, our spring count (including count week) of 2659 birds covering 108 species is lower than the 22 year averages.

Brooks/Lake Newell

Date: May 17/18 2014

Compiler: Bob Parsons

Participants: information not available

Area Covered: information not available

Weather:

Day 1 & 2: Temp. 9 to 21°C

Wind speed: slight

Precipitation: none

Comments: mix of sun and clouds

Team Distance/Hours: information not available

Number of Species: 161

Number of Birds: 51,608

Buffalo Lake

Date: May 24, 2014

Compiler: Lee Carothers

Participants: Lee Carothers, Wilma Zurfluh, Katy Bullick

Area Covered: North of Stettler, farmyard, and 1 feeder watch

Weather:

Day 1: Temp. 11 to 15°C

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

Precipitation: none

Comments: very windy

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: 58

Number of Birds: 892

Highlights: Lots of Black-necked Stilts.

Calgary and area

Date: May 24 and 25, 2014

Compiler: Terry Poulton

Participants: 95+ Aaron Alford, Tim Allison, Lorrie & John Anderson, Sid Andrews, Dan Arndt, Linda Bailey, John Bargman, Bruce Barnettson, Darren Batke, Anne Belton, Laura Bentley, Mike Bentley, Kingsley Blades, Al Borgardt, Penney Borrowman, Ken Burton, Dave Campbell, Lorraine Campbell, Marianne Chase, Trevor Churchill, Brooke Clibbon, Amy Darling, Elizabeth Delong, Bernie Diebolt, Deanna Downton-Jullyan, Jean Dunn, Joseph Dylke, Brian Elder, Joy Ely, Kris Fernet, Dick Flynn, Lenora Flynn, Dave

Gibson, Janet Gill, Joerg Gueldenpfennig, Carol Hache, Ian Halladay, Michael Harrison, Andrew Hart, Ken & Chris Havard, Helen Hebb, Howard Heffler, Lyn Heffler, Kumiko Kamiike, Andrew Keaveney, Sue Konopnicki, Terry Korolyk, Bob Lefebvre, Don Magnusson, Gary Malcolm, Tivan Malcom-Teleky, Zerind Malcom-Teleky, Pat Mitchell, Mike Mulligan, Rose Painter, Ruth Painter, Cindy Parliament, Dan Parliament, Nicole Pellerin, Simone Pellerin-Wood, Jerry Pilny, Phyllis Roberts, Peter Roxburgh, Mark Rubensohn, Melanie Seneviratne, Darlene Shymkiw, Andrew Slater, Ena Spalding, Stephen Spring, Jim St. Laurent, John Stegeman, Diane Stinson, Don Stiles, Phil Stiles, Zacke Svensson, Tony Timmons, Rodger Titman, Eric Tull, Hank VanderPol, Dave Vernon, Greg Wagner, Joan & Wayne Walker, Ray Wershler, Sam Williams, Bill Wilson, Marjorie Wing, Ray Woods, Robert Worona, Gus Yaki, Colin Young, and others from CCNA, not reported, and others from FFCPP group (Friends of Fish Creek Prov Pk), and others not reported.

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

Weather:

Day 1: Temp. 10 (3 in mountains) to 20°C

Wind speed: 0 (mostly) to 40 km/hr in pm. Wind direction: n/a

Precipitation: mostly nil, minor sprinkles/showers locally in pm

Comments: mostly sunny, calm; afternoon cloud

Day 2: Temp. 10 (3 in mountains) to 26 (on prairies)°C

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

Precipitation: mostly nil, short showers in pm locally

Comments: mostly sunny in am, dark and cloudy with light wind in pm

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team mileage: 3792.94 km+; by vehicle 3535.80 km; on foot 257.14 km. Total Team Hours: 406.47 hr+; by vehicle 205.08 hr; on foot 201.39 hr.

Number of Species: 216 (+3 cw)

Number of Birds: 76119 (+7 cw)

Other species seen during count week: 5 Trumpeter Swans at Glenmore Reservoir May 28 (Deanna Campbell, Albertabird); 1 Lewis's Woodpecker SW of Calgary (Paul Turbitt; Bob Lefebvre); 1 Nelson's Sparrow at Horse Creek Road marshes, May 26 (James Telford, Jessica Klawunn on eBird).

Highlights: Copulating Arctic Terns at Cattlelands, north of Strathmore ; Surf Scoters at Glenmore Reservoir.

Central Alberta (Red Deer and area)

Date: May 24, 25, 2014

Compiler: Judy Boyd

Participants: 47 - Stanley (Bud) Bargholz, Jean Bargholz, Brian Biggs, Karin Bjorge, Myron Bjorge, Jim Boyce, Judy Boyd, Larry Boyd, Dorothy Broadbent, Lois Burkinshaw, Phil Burkinshaw, Vivian Busat, Amy Dale, Elizabeth Dale, Eileen Ford, Jordan Ford, Laurel Ford, Stewart Ford, Irma Google, Bernice Hafner, Dorothy Hazlett, Bill Heinsen, Vivian Iglesias, Cameron Jenkins, Carol Kelly, Keith Kline, Jaxson Leach, Joyce Lemke, David MacKenzie, Mary MacKenzie, Jackie Miller, Ken Miller, Susan Morris, Stephen Morris, Clint Nissen, Myrna Pearman, Doug Pedersen, Jim Potter, Don

Sands, Barbara Schiffer, Eric Sinton, Helga Sinton, Cheryl Skene, Cheryl Thorpe, Pam Van Pettan, Barry Van Pettan, Rick Varjassy.

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 16 (Lousana), Zone 17 (Bigelow Reservoir), Zone 18 (Spruce Coulee), Zone 19 (Bowden), Zone 21 (Crammond), Zone 25 (Trochu), Zone 26 (Dry Island Buffalo Jump), and Zone 27 (Rocky Mountain House).

Weather:

Day 1: Temp. 6 to 23°C

Wind speed: 0 to 25 km/hr. Wind direction: predominantly NW, but also SE, W-NNE, W

Day 2: Temp. 14 to 24°C

Wind speed: 10 to 35 km/hr. Wind direction: NE, SE

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team Mileage: 822.9 km; by vehicle 789.8 km; on foot 31.1 km; by canoe 2 km. Total Team Hours: 105 hr, 25 minutes; by vehicle 36 hr.; on foot 24 hr., 10 min; by canoe 1 hr.; feederwatch 44 hr, 15 min.

Number of Species: 146

Number of Birds: 14155

Highlights:

Highest recorded numbers since 2000: Green-winged Teal, Eared Grebe, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Marbled Godwit, Common Tern, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Say's Phoebe, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-coloured Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle.

First time recorded since 2000: Black-crowned Night-Heron, Long-eared Owl (although there was a count week bird in 2008.)

Number of participants was down from last year's 50 to 44. The number of bird species went up from last year to 147. (The highest recorded number of species since 2000 was in 2008: 153.) The count of individual birds was up from last year's 12373 to 14155.

Mammals: White-tailed Deer, Mule Deer, Richardson's Ground Squirrel, Red Fox, Chipmunk, Coyote, Muskrat, Elk, snowshoe hare, Striped Skunk, Meadow Vole, Moose, Red Squirrel.

Amphibians: Boreal Chorus Frog, and Wood Frog.

Reptile: Garter Snake

Insects: Ground Beetle (pterostichus species), bumblebee, Spring Azure, Fritillary, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Mourning Cloak.

Claresholm

Date: May 24, 25, 2014

Compiler: Grace Norgard

Participants: Jason Attwell, Ruth Attwell, Adriane Bolton, Chris Bolton, Rob Chisholm, Robin Chisholm, Gary Cotter, Nola Cotter, Carley Egger, Haley Egger, Kerry Hart, Audrey Helmer, Betty Hoare, Mike Hoare, Anola Lang, Joan Larson, Leo Larson, Stan Lewis, Debbie Lozeman, Judy Lucas, Arnold McCulloch, Rosemary McCulloch, Arnold Norgard, Ellis Norgard, Grace Norgard, Jack Peacock, Al Williams, Deidre Williams

Area Covered: 40-km radius of Claresholm.

Weather:

Day 1: Temp. 10 to 23°C

Wind speed: 7 to 24 km/hr. Wind direction: NE

Precipitation: 0 mm

Day 2: Temp. 9 to 19°C

Wind speed: 5 to 20 km/hr. Wind direction: NE

Precipitation: 0 mm

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team Mileage: 479 km; by vehicle 477 km; on foot 2 km.

Total Team Hours: 24 hr; by vehicle 22 hr; on foot 2 hr.

Number of Species: 120

Number of Birds: 5974

Other species seen during count week: (3) Double-crested Cormorants, (3) Common Terns, (1) Alder Flycatcher, (2) Red-eyed Vireos, (2) Ruby-crowned Kinglets, (2) Townsend's Solitaires, (1) Gray Catbird, (1) Townsend's Warbler, (1) McGillivray's Warbler, (1) White-throated Sparrow

Highlights: The 120 species seen this year is well above the long-term average of 115. Trumpeter Swan and White-faced Ibis were seen for only the second time in the 35-year history of the Claresholm count.

Cold Lake Area Bird Count

Date: May 24-25, 2014

Compiler: Ted Hindmarch

Participants: 8: Ron & Nancy Donnelly, Phil Shore (Cold Lake); Ted Hindmarch (Gibbons); Chris Etue (Rapid View, Sask); Richard Klauke (Vilna); Del Huget (Edmonton); Doug Davidson (Bonnyville AB); Feeder watch x 1 Mado Shore

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, Bear Trap Lake, Moose Lake, Angling Lake, Ethel and Marie Lake, Manitokan Lake, Margaurite 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: Day 1: Temp. 12 to 22°C

Wind speed: calm to 26 km/hr. Avg 15-20 km/hr through main count hours, gusts to 35 km/hr in late afternoon. Wind direction: W through NNW.

Precipitation: mostly to partly cloudy. Trace light rain in some portions of circle in early morning hours 4:30-6AM

Comments: temps above seasonal average (8C, 20C). Fair birding conditions in AM, breezy with increased wind in afternoon and evening causing some reduction in passerine detection.

Day 2: Temp. 6 to 18°C

Wind speed: 4 to 24 km/hr. Avg 7-9 km/hr through main count hours. Wind direction NNE-SSE. (Wind direction switch from westerly to easterly around midnight).

Precipitation: thunderstorm active after 4PM – light to heavy precipitation noted in various parts of count circle, clearing in evening, scattered to mostly cloudy

Comments: Temps slightly below seasonal average (8C-20C). Good birding conditions with light to moderate winds for most of day.

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team Mileage: 843.6 km; by vehicle 835.5 km; on foot; 8.1 km; by canoe 0 km, bike 0 km. Total Team Hours: 72.2 hr; by vehicle 61.75hr; on foot 6.45 hr; by canoe 0 hr, bike 0 hr. Feeder Watch: Plus 4hr - 1 participant.

Number of Species: 153 (+15 cw)

Number of Birds: 12,145(+55cw)

Other species seen during count week: 15: 20 Pacific Loons, 1 American Golden-Plover, 7 Sanderling, 2 White-rumped Sandpiper, 12 Sabine's Gull, 1 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 1 Philadelphia Vireo, 1 Brown Creeper, 1 Gray-cheeked Thrush, 2 Cedar Waxwing, 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1 Black-throated Green Warbler, 1 Bay-breasted Warbler, 1 Blackpoll Warbler, 3 Harris's Sparrow,

Highlights: What! The lake is still frozen! This was the sight that greeted me on my arrival at Cold Lake the Thursday of Count Week, in preparation for the count weekend. As far as the eye could see, nothing but ice – although later checks found some open water and open leads nearer the shoreline on the west and northwest areas of the lake, where prevailing winds had shifted the ice a bit. This 80-90% ice cover remained throughout the count weekend. Never had we experienced these conditions, although we had occasions where there were still a few ice flows on the water. This was evidence of our long winter and late spring combined with a count weekend (last full May weekend of the month) falling on its earliest possible dates. It will be nice, next year to start the weekend cycle back on the last days of the month.

We did benefit from this early date and a later migration with a rare count week sighting of up to 20 Pacific Loons along the ice edge in North Bay on Friday. In addition a dozen or more Sabine's Gulls (increasingly more common on our last few counts) and good numbers of Red-Breasted Merganser were present. Unfortunately, only some of the latter remained to be captured in our count weekend numbers. Friday also found some diversity of shorebirds on wetlands near La Corey and Manatokan in the west portions of the count circle, some of which did not remain into count weekend.

Saturday started out a bit damp after some light early morning showers, and remained breezy throughout the day. 7 individuals worked in 5 parties through the day. On Sunday, we were down to 5 individuals working in 3 parties to catch some of the other areas of the circle. The weather on Sunday proved much better than the Saturday. A move to E and SSE winds as the day progressed, combined with a late afternoon thunderstorm front, may have precipitated a fall-out as count week Monday morning birding in Cold Lake Provincial Park was quite active after a slower weekend. Warbler and other insectivore migration were in their very early stages put certainly picked up into the following week and added to our CW numbers.

This year saw one of our lowest recorded counts for species diversity observed. Species (153) with CW numbers (15) only totaled 168 (Interestingly, in 2008, the last count falling on these earlier dates, our results actually proved even lower – with 156 + 2CW for 158. The previous 24-25 May weekend fell in 2003, with 179 bird species observed over the weekend and an additional 10 species reported during the count-week for 189

species, however, that was with 25 participants). In addition to count and migration timing and spring weather, part of this lower result could be attributed to a reduction in levels of effort again this year (Party Hours, less intense coverage etc). Fewer individual/parties were available for the field and some had less available time to spend in the field. We also experienced the loss/unavailability of some of our historic feeder watchers, (only 1 feeder watcher submitted data for the count)

This year we had our first confirmed report and addition to our list of a Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher (R. Klauke/T. Hindmarch) for the count period, with one observed in a migrant fall-out in Loop A of the Provincial Park on CW Monday morning. We also had reports of C list species: Cinnamon Teal (D. Huget), Glaucous Gull (R. Klauke), Caspian Tern (R. Klauke), American Tree Sparrow (separate sightings by D.Huget and R. Donnelly), along with C List CW sightings of Pacific Loons (T. Hindmarch), Sabine's Gull (T. Hindmarch) and Grey-Cheeked Thrush (R. Klauke). B list sightings (only seen on 25-75% of counts) included Swainson's Hawk, Long-Billed Dowitcher, Red-Necked Phalarope, Black-Backed Woodpecker, Sedge Wren, Nashville Warbler, and White-Winged Crossbill, with CW Bay-Breasted Warbler, and Harris Sparrow. One observation reported in our thrush species numbers was tentatively reported as a B-list Veery.

Significant misses from our primary list were American White Pelican, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Black-Bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, any Owls, Western Wood-Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo and Common Grackle.

Crowsnest Pass Bird Count

Date: May 29-30, 2014

Compiler: Marilyn Liddel

Participants: Denise Coccioloni-Amatto, Mike Bentley, Kevin Knight, Marilyn Liddell, Bob Livesey, Pat Lucas, Phil Nicholas, Greg Ross, Cindy Sinnot, Diane Stinson, Nel van Kamer,

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, Chinook Lake, Summit Lake, Crowsnest Lake, wetlands west of Visitor Centre, areas within Crowsnest Pass municipal boundaries from East Hillcrest Bridge to the wetlands between Coleman and Blairmore, Todd Creek, Lundbreck **Day 2:** Hwy 22 and connectors to the Gap, returning on North Burmis Road

Weather:

Day 1: Day 1: Temp. 5 to 11°C

Wind speed: 19 to 35 km/hr. Wind direction: NE.

Precipitation: none

Day 2: Temp. 10 to 22°C

Wind speed: 4 to 10 km/hr. Wind direction: NE.

Precipitation: none

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team Mileage: 391 km; by vehicle 380 km; on foot; 11 km; Total Team Hours: 22 hr; by vehicle 6.5hr; on foot 15.5 hr;

Number of Species: 128 (+8 cw)

Number of Birds: 3528(+230cw)

Other species seen during count week: Cooper's Hawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-pewee, Willow Flycatcher, White-throated Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Lazulia Bunting. MAMMALS: black bear, red fox, white-tailed deer, mule deer, coyote, moose, Columbian ground squirrel.

Highlights: The 2014 Crowsnest Pass May Species Count yielded the highest number of species and individual birds since we began the count in this area in 2006. A greater number of participants, many with highly trained ears, allowed us to cover more territory within the boundaries of our count area. A particular highlight was the sighting of 6 pairs of Harlequin Ducks at The Gap.

Fort McMurray/Wood Buffalo Wild Bird Club

Date: May 31, June 1, 2014

Compiler: Simone Marler

Participants: Total 25

Party 1: North of Fort McMurray: Kate Prince; Rachelle McLaughlin; Christian Kelly; Louis Villamil; Steven Stryde; Tom MacMillan; Gabrielle Coulombe; Erika Hentsch; Blaine Comes; Ryan Dudrayne; Priscilla Lei; Sarah Gray; Danna Schock; Becka Baldwin

Party 2: South of Fort McMurray: Simone Marler; Blaine Marler;

Party 3: Sapræ Creek: Jaimi Macdonald

Party 4: Downtown (Hill Dr) Ron Hyde

Party 5: Timberlea: Paul Knaga; Rochelle Maitripala; Ingrid Bobekova; Jennifer Button;

Party 6: Taiganova Industrial area: Alan Reeve

Party 7: Abasand, Waterways: Emily Stairs; Amelia Thornhill

Party 8: Thickwood + ET Rd: Steven Stryde

Party 9: East across the Clearwater River: Jane Elser

Area Covered: Fort McMurray city (downtown + suburban areas, including Birchwood Trails in Thickwood & Timberlea, landfill, Prairie Creek); North of Fort McMurray ~90km, including Cantera Road/East Athabasca Hwy to Hammerstone quarry and Chevron reclamation area; west on AOSTRA Rd for 51km; Poplar Ck and reservoir; Crane Lake; Jenny Pond & Peter Lougheed Bridge; Gateway Hill; Taiganova Industrial Park. South of Fort McMurray ~60km to Maqua Lake PP and east to Anzac via connector road to Hwy 881; east across the Clearwater River.

Weather:

Day 1: Temp. 6 to 15°C

Wind speed: 4 to 10km/hr. Wind direction: w/sw

Precipitation: nil

Day 2: Temp. 15 to 23°C

Wind speed: calm to gusts up to 10 km/hr. Wind direction:

Precipitation: mostly sunny north of town; partly cloudy, occasional showers south of Fort McMurray

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team Mileage: 331km; by vehicle 293; on foot 38 km.

Total Team Hours: 38 hr; by vehicle 17 hr; on foot 21 hr.

Number of Species: 119 (+2 CW)

Number of Birds: 5506 (+7CW)

Other species seen during count week: Yellow Rail (3); American Bittern (4); RED-NAPED WOODPECKER was reported during the count weekend by a crew doing songbird surveys about 85km north of Fort McMurray. The bird was seen and heard, and would be a new sighting for the area. It will be reported separately.

Highlights: Very good increase in participation by new/experienced birders. Very good numbers and species of warblers, although no Black-throated Green was recorded this year. Great Grey Owl was another highlight.

Lac La Biche

Date: May 24, 25, 2014

Compiler: Jennifer Okrainec

Participants: 18 total, Linda & Lena Coumont, Bob & Mary Dunn, Bernie Gauthier, Clara McArthur, Muriel & Jennifer Mueller, Joe Neiderlitner, Jennifer, Jacob & Cooper Okrainec, Jim Skaladan, Mary Tesolin, Don & Jean Welke, Barbara Ann & George Wicker

Area Covered: Lac La Biche town and Lake area, Sir Winston Churchill Park, Missawawi Lake, Beaver Lake, Touchwood & Shaw Lake (Lakeland PP), Plamondon, Elinor Lake area, Owl River area

Weather:

Day 1: Temp. 5 to 18°C

Wind speed: 2 km/hr.

Precipitation: 0, but partly cloudy

Day 2: Temp. 10 to 18°C

Wind speed: 2 to 12 km/hr. Wind direction: SE

Precipitation: 0, partly cloudy

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team Mileage: 570 km; by vehicle 562; on foot 8 km.

Total Team Hours: 107 hr; by vehicle 99 hr; on foot 8 hr.

Number of Species: 132

Number of Birds: 7637

Highlights: a tri-colored blackbird, was identified by an experienced birder. Thrushes not singing very much, unusual.

Lethbridge

Date: May 24, 25, 2014

Compiler: Graeme Greenlee

Participants: Douglas Dolman, Teresa Dolman, Graeme Greenlee, Pat Greenlee, Jennifer Mather, Martin Osis, Trina Tilan

Area Covered: 80 Km radius around Lethbridge

Weather:

Day 1: Temp. 12 to 21°C

Wind speed: 3 to 22 km/hr. Wind direction: NE

Precipitation: 0 mm

Day 2: Temp. 8 to 20°C

Wind speed: 2 to 22 km/hr. Wind direction: NE

Precipitation: 0 mm

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team Mileage: 94 km; by vehicle 73 km; on foot 21 km.
Total Team Hours: 16.5 hr; by vehicle 6 hr; on foot 10.5 hr.

Number of Species: 108

Number of Birds: 4045

Other species seen during count week: none

Highlights:

This count continues to suffer from poor participation and as a result the total number of species (108) was again below the long-term average of 116. However, for only the second time in the count's history, Great Egret, Dunlin and Bohemian Waxwing were seen. And for only the third time, Wood Duck and Stilt Sandpiper were recorded.

Medicine Hat

Date: May 25, 2014

Compiler: Marty Drut

Participants: Marina Anagnostakos, Barry Anderson, Judy Anderson, Dee Armstrong, Hugh Armstrong, Monica Bartha, Rick Carrier, Marty Drut, Oolee Eegeesiak, Bob Frew, Corlaine Gardner, Rob Gardner, Sue Higgins, Dale Holmes, Lisa Holmes, Annalora Horch, Phil Horch, Corine Korf, Cam Lockerbie, Jim Marshall, Gary Martin, Dave McKenzie, Michael O'Shea, Kathleen Randall, Dan Schiebelbein, Mark Schiebelbein, Jan Scott, Madison Sheffield, John Slater, Elaine Spitzer, Milt Spitzer, Donna Steele, Marie Stein, Charmiane Trottier, Ben Velner, Michael Velner, Tina Wideen

Area Covered: no info available

Weather:

Day 1: Temp. 11 to 22°C

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

Precipitation: None

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team Mileage: 411 km; by vehicle 139; on foot 272 km.
Total Team Hours: 99.5 hr; by vehicle 29.5 hr; on foot 70 hr.

Number of Species: 144

Number of Birds: 10,114

Other species seen during count week: Sandhill Crane, Western Tanager

Highlights: The 30th Spring Count was blessed with good weather – temperatures were seasonal (high 22° C, low 11° C) and winds were light (5-15 km/hr). With these excellent conditions, 144 species were observed, which was the second highest total in count history (154 in 2002). Individual birds counted (10,114) were the greatest since 2010 (13,123) and well above the average of 7,655 for 2011-2013.

One new species, palm warbler, was observed in 2014. There were 10 species with record high counts as well. Species included 3 water birds (horned grebe, green-winged teal, and cinnamon teal) and 3 sparrows (chipping, savannah, and song). Eurasian-collared doves were high for the third time in four years. No record lows were noted in 2014.

Species missing from this year's count that are usually seen included pied-billed grebe, western grebe, double-crested cormorant, bufflehead, sharp-shinned hawk, eastern phoebe, loggerhead shrike, chestnut-collared longspur, and pine siskin.

Less frequently seen species noted in 2014 were Eurasian wigeon (1), ring-necked duck (4), upland sandpiper (1), black tern (1), ruby-throated hummingbird (1), yellow-

bellied sapsucker (1), willow flycatcher (1), white-breasted nuthatch (2), brown creeper (3 – record high), mountain bluebird (2), Townsend's solitaire (1), gray-cheeked thrush (2), hermit thrush (3), northern shrike (1), Wilson's warbler (1), Canada warbler (1), American tree sparrow (9), bobolink (1), and common redpoll (1) (see Species Data Table, page 5).

The top five for 2014 were European starling (1,146), American robin (762), Canada goose (668), house sparrow (558), red-winged blackbird (479).

As for flowers, 60 species were observed in bloom, which was relatively high compared to the previous 4 years (except 2012) and somewhat surprising because spring "green-up" seemed "delayed" in 2014.

Count effort was excellent in 2014. Participants (37) were the highest since 2010 (35) and hours of observation were higher than any of the previous 4 years. Many thanks to all those who volunteered their time this year!

Milk River/Writing-on-Stone

Date: information not available

Compiler: Bob Parsons

Participants: information not available

Area Covered: information not available

Weather:

Day 1 and 2: Temp. 12 to 17°C

Wind speed: light to moderate winds

Precipitation: some light showers in southern zone on Montana border

Comments: more cloudy than sunny,

Team Distance/Hours: information not available

Number of Species: 145

Number of Birds: 20465

Taber-Vauxhall

Date: May 24, 25, 2014

Compiler: Lloyd Bennett

Participants: Lloyd Bennett, Yolanda Bennett, Glen Gardner, Ben Tams, Carol Tams

Area Covered: Taber & Vauxhall areas, Purple Springs Dunes

Weather:

Day 1: Temp. 12 to 23°C

Wind speed: 4 to 20 km/hr. Wind direction: NE

Precipitation: 0 mm

Day 2: Temp. 12 to 21°C

Wind speed: 3 to 12 km/hr. Wind direction: NE

Precipitation: 0 mm

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team Mileage: 439 km; by vehicle 436 km; on foot 3 km.

Total Team Hours: 23.5 hr; by vehicle 20 hr; on foot 3.5 hr.

Number of Species: 131

Number of Birds: 6949

Other species seen during count week: (1) Black Tern, (1) Common Nighthawk, (1) Ruby-throated Hummingbird, (1) Orange-crowned Warbler, (1) American Redstart
Highlights: White-faced Ibis were seen for only the second time in this count's 25-year history. As well, Semipalmated and Pectoral Sandpipers were seen for only the third time.

Wakomao Lake

Date: May 24, 2014

Compiler: Jim Lange

Participants: Jim Lange , Fred Wiley

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. 18°C

Wind speed: 25-40 km/hr.

Wind direction: WNW

Comments: sunny in AM with increasing cloud during the day

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team Mileage: 87 km. Total Team Hours: 10.25 hr.

Number of Species: 68

Number of Birds: 1051

Waterton Lakes National Park

Date: May 31, June 1, 2014

Compiler: Teresa Dolman

Participants: Lloyd Bennett, Yolanda Bennett, Douglas Dolman, Teresa Dolman, Dave Elphinstone, Lois Everett, Ellen Gasser, Cyndi Smith, Marilyn Thomson

Area Covered: All roads and adjacent lands within Park boundaries, as well as Waterton town site.

Weather:

Day 1: Temp. 3 to 19°C

Wind speed: 6 to 23 km/hr. Wind direction: SW

Precipitation: brief local showers

Day 2: Temp. 5 to 19°C

Wind speed: 3 to 20 km/hr. Wind direction: SW

Precipitation: 0 mm

Team Distance/Hours: Total Team Mileage: 208 km; by vehicle 202; on foot 6 km.

Total Team Hours: 28 hr; by vehicle 23 hr; on foot 5 hr.

Number of Species: 120

Number of Birds: 1732

Other species seen during count week: Harlequin Duck, American Dipper

Highlights: 2014 marks the 30th year that the Waterton Lakes National Park spring count has been conducted. Over those years the average number of bird species recorded is 105, and we exceeded that handily this year with 121 species. One new species was added to the overall list, that being Broad-winged Hawk. The observer was watching a Golden

Eagle when a small hawk appeared and started harassing the eagle; the hawk in question was the Broad-winged, a species rarely seen in Waterton Lakes National Park. In Alberta it breeds in the east-central part of the province.

Dusky Grouse was tallied for the third time only, and Common Grackle and “Western” Flycatcher for the fourth time only.