

2015 May Species Count for Birds

By Judy Boyd

The number of species went up this year: from 273 last year to 278 this year but the number of individual birds went down: 221,034 this year from 237, 010 last year. In 2014, the most numerous species was the Franklin's Gull. Second was the Red-winged Blackbird and third was the Canada Goose. In 2015, the most numerous species was again the Franklin's Gull with 26,405. Second was the Canada Goose with 13,349 and third was the Red-winged Blackbird with 10,249.

This year, 34 species were found in only one location around the province: Ross's Goose, Semipalmated Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, and Red Knot at Brooks; Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, Surf Scoter, Peregrine Falcon, Band-tailed Pigeon, Red Crossbill, and White-winged Crossbill at Calgary; Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Short-eared Owl at Milk River; Spruce Grouse, Rough-legged Hawk, Pectoral Sandpiper, Boreal Owl, and Lapland Longspur at Fort McMurray; Wild Turkey, Vaux's Swift, and Western Bluebird at Crowsnest Pass; Clark's Grebe, and Bay-breasted Warbler at Taber/Vauxhall; Northern Goshawk at Waterton; Long-eared Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Sedge Wren, and Nashville Warbler at Cold Lake; Northern Hawk Owl, Northern Shrike, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch at Bow Kan; Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Common Redpoll at Central Alberta; Yellow-breasted Chat at Medicine Hat.

20 species were found in 2 locations around the province: Snow Goose was seen at Lethbridge and Brooks; Trumpeter Swan, Dusky Grouse, and Pacific-slope Flycatcher at Calgary and Waterton; Red-breasted Merganser at Calgary and Medicine Hat; Short-billed Dowitcher at Brooks and Fort McMurray; Ruddy Turnstone at Brooks and Cold Lake; Red-necked Phalarope at Brooks and Calgary; Virginia Rail, and Blackburnian Warbler at Cold Lake and Calgary; Philadelphia Vireo at Calgary and Fort McMurray; Steller's Jay at Waterton and Crowsnest Pass; Gray-cheeked Thrush at Brooks and Taber/Vauxhall; Cape May Warbler at Lac La Biche and Calgary; Black-throated Green Warbler at Cold Lake and Fort McMurray; Brewer's Sparrow at Taber/Vauxhall and Waterton; Grasshopper Sparrow at Taber/Vauxhall and Medicine Hat; Fox Sparrow at BowKan and Waterton; Rusty Blackbird at Lac La Biche and Fort McMurray; Cassin's Finch at Crowsnest Pass and Waterton; Bullock's Oriole at Milk River and Taber/Vauxhall.

Last year we had ten species in all areas. This year we only species in all areas: American Robin. Last year fifteen species were found in all but one area, and eight species were found in all but two areas. This year ninespecies were found in all but one area: Canada Goose, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Sora, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, and Savannah Sparrow. This year seven species were found in all but two areas: Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Black-billed Magpie, House Wren, European Starling, Chipping Sparrow and Red-winged Blackbird.