

Beauvais Lake Provincial Park

Date: May 25, 2018

Compiler: Teresa Dolman

Participants: Douglas Dolman, Teresa Dolman, Jenaya Launstein, Pat Lucas

Area Covered: Within Park

Weather:

Day 1: Temp. 15 to 25°C

Wind speed: 21 to 48 km/hr. Wind direction: SW

Precipitation: 0 mm

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage: 16.1 km; by vehicle 0 km; on foot 16.1 km

9.5 hr; by vehicle 0 hr; on foot 9.5 hr.

Number of Species: 67 (+1CW)

Number of Birds: 351

Other species seen during count week: American Kestrel

Highlights: The 67 species recorded handily exceeded the long-term average of 59 species, and three new species were added to the overall list – Wilson's Phalarope, Fox Sparrow and Baltimore Oriole. Cape May Warbler was recorded for only the second time ever, and Ruddy Duck, Brown Creeper and Song Sparrow for only the third time.

BowKan Birders

Date: 26-27 May 2018

Compiler: Cliff Hansen

Participants: Kevin Barker, Cheryl Cordeen, Nancy Davis, Ethan Denton, Neil Denton, Monica Dragoz, Marilynn Dyck, Trish Drews, Gian-Duri Giger, Cliff Hansen, Margo Hansen, Laura Reid, Rose Reid, Jason Reid, Hanne Seidel, Fiona Verlinde, Bill Wilson, Anita Walker, Eva Zidek

Area Covered: 15 km diameter circle centered on the north face of Mount McGillivray), just south of Exshaw.

Weather: Day 1: Temp. 10 to 20°C

Wind speed: 5 to 20 km/hr. Wind direction: mostly SW

Precipitation: Nil

Comments: Pleasant Day

Day 2: Temp. 10 to 20°C

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

Precipitation: Nil

Comments: Pleasant Day

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage: 245 km; by vehicle 181; on foot 64 km.

Total team hours: 62.5 hr; by vehicle 10 hr; on foot 52.5 hr.

Number of Species: 108 (+ 1 CW)

Number of Birds: 2060 (+ 1 CW)

Other species seen during count week: Northern Goshawk (1)

Highlights: 1 x Double-crested Cormorant, 3 x Snow Goose, 1 x Swan (species not defined), 1 x Cassin's Vireo, 2 x Baltimore Oriole.

Brooks Lake Newell

Date: May 19, 20, 2018

Compiler: Bob Parsons

Participants: 34

Area Covered: Agricultural, native grasslands, rural, ponds sloughs lake reservoirs, woodlots.

Weather: Day 1: Temp. 8 to 18°C

Wind speed: 10 to 20 km/hr.

Precipitation: x

Comments: light winds, some gust, partly cloudy

Day 2: Temp. 9 to 23°C

Wind speed: 10 to 18 km/hr.

Precipitation: x

Comments: Light winds, some gusts, clear, 30km gusts in east areas

Number of Species: 152 (+ 12 CW)

Number of Birds: 45072

Other species seen during count week: Tundra Swan, Western Sandpiper, Harris' Sparrow, warblers include Magnolia, Black-and-white, Ovenbird, Mourning, MacGillivray's, Nashville.

Highlights: 2 Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Mockingbird, 5 Burrowing Owl, 93 Red-necked Phalarope, one Grasshopper Sparrow, 275 Stilt Sandpipers. Missing this year include Turkey Vulture, Short-eared owl, Le Conte's Sparrow, American Redstart, Lesser Yellowlegs, most flycatcher species.

Buffalo Lake Naturalists

Date: May 26, 2018

Compiler: Lee Carothers

Participants: Lee Carothers, Karin Lindquist, Marie Payne, Bob Schreiber

Area Covered: N.W. Stettler

Weather: Day 1: Temp. 14 to 18°C

Wind speed: 20 to 40 km/hr. Wind direction: N

Precipitation: none

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage: 33 km; by vehicle 31km.; on foot 2 km

Total team hours: 5 hr; by vehicle 2 hr; on foot 3 hr.

Number of Species: 51 (+ 3CW)

Number of Birds: 460 (+ 11CW)

Other species seen during count week: 8 American Goldfinch, 2 Pine Siskin, 1 Hairy Woodpecker

Calgary and area

Date: May 26, 27, 2018

Compiler: Melanie Seneviratne, Andrew Hart, Terry Poulton (Nature Calgary team)

Participants: 49+

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

Weather: Day 1: Temp. 14 to 24°C, down to 5C in the morning in mountains.

Wind speed: Calm.

Precipitation: Dry

Comments: Clear, sunny and calm, to variably cloudy

Day 2: Temp. 12 to 26°C

Wind speed: windy, gusting to 40 km/hr. Wind direction: from W, NW, NNE

Precipitation: Occasional light rain reported in Sibbald area only

Comments: Overcast and cool in morning, clearing in afternoon. Bow River high and fast with some flooding in Calgary; reported normal in Cochrane. Lush vegetation and grass.

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage: 3970 km; by vehicle 3705; on foot 265 km

Total team hours: 438 hr; by vehicle 295 hr; on foot 142.58 hr.

Number of Species: 203 (+ 5 CW)

Number of Birds: 77582 (+ 6 CW)

Other species seen only during count week:

Snowy Egret (1), Little Blue Heron (1 - see <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S45984543>), Sabine's Gull (1), Winter Wren (2), Black-and-White Warbler (1).

Highlights: The effort (observers, hours, kilometres) is roughly similar to recent years, as is the total number of birds reported. However, the number of species (203) is gradually reduced from a high of 224 in 2011.

Central Alberta (Red Deer and area)

Date: May 26, 27, 2018

Compiler: Judy Boyd

Participants: **Participants: 29** – Lena Bickmeyer, Karin Bjorge, Myron Bjorge, Judy Boyd, Larry Boyd, Jerry Caddy, John Caddy, Maureen Carey, Brenda Church, Lucas Church, Anto Davis, Morris Flewelling, Eileen Ford, Stewart Ford, Bill Heinsen, Carol Kelly, Keith Kline, Jim Leslie, Joyce Lemke, Nora Luthi, Kent Macfarlane, Clint Nissen, Juanita Nissen, Doug Pedersen, William Quamme, Joanne Susat, Rick Varjassy, Kat Wildt, Kat Wurth

Area Covered: Zone 1 (Red Deer), Zone 3 (Gull Lake), Zone 4 (Lacombe), Zone 6 (Pine Lake), Zone 7 (Penhold), Zone 8 (Dickson, MRWC), Zone 10 (Withrow), Zone 12 (Crestomere), Zone 25 (Three Hills), Zone 16 (Lousana), Zone 17 (Bigelow Reservoir), Zone 19 (Bowden), Zone 21 (Crammond), Zone 22 (Didsbury), Zone 26 (Dry Island Buffalo Jump), and Zone 27 (Rocky Mountain House).

Weather: Day 1: Temp. 8 to 26°C

Wind speed: 6 to 39 km/hr. Wind direction: variable

Cloud cover: 0-100%

Day 2: Temp. 11 to 26°C

Wind speed: 2 to 20 km/hr. Wind direction: variable

Cloud cover: 2-25%

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage: 1122.15 km; by vehicle 1082.9 km; on foot 25.25 km; by bicycle 13 km.; by canoe 1 km

Total team hours: 107 hr, 50 min.; by vehicle 57 hr., 10 min; on foot 22 hr, 40 min.; by bicycle 3 hr.; by canoe 1 hr; feederwatch 24 hr.

Number of Species: 133

Number of Birds: 10294

Highlights: Highest recorded numbers since 2000: 2 Broad-winged Hawk, 5 Long-billed Curlew, 4 Loggerhead Shrike, 19 Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 1099 Cliff Swallow.

Number of participants was down from last year's 39 to 29. This was the second to lowest number since 2000 (lowest was 28 in 2004.) The number of bird species went down from last year's 143 to 133. (The highest recorded number of species since 2000 was in 2008: 153.) The count of individual birds was down from last year's 10381 to 10294.

Mammals: Coyote, Moose, Mule Deer, Muskrat, Red Fox, Red Squirrel, Richardson's Ground Squirrel, White-tailed Deer

Amphibians: Boreal Chorus Frog, Wood Frog

Insects: Azure Blue, Blue Darner, Bluet damselfly, Bumblebee, Canadian Tiger Swallowtail, fritillary, grasshopper, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, mosquito, Mourning Cloak, Red Ant, Red-winged Clickhoppers

Cold Lake Area Bird Count

Date: May 26, 27, 2018

Compiler: Ted Hindmarch

Participants: 9 individuals (6 parties Day 1, 4 parties Day 2): Phil Shore, Lex Hedley, Nancy Dufour, Ron and Nancy Donnelly (Cold Lake); Ted Hindmarch (Kelowna); Chris Etue (Rapid View, Sask); Richard Klauke (Vilna); Del Huget (Edmonton); plus, Feeder watch x 2 Mado Shore; In addition: fds Peter Roxburgh (Calgary) participated in pre-count Count Week scouting.

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, NE Moose Lake, Angling Lake, Ethel and Marie Lake, Crane Lake, Manitokan Lake. This covered areas within WR51-55, WR40-45, WR33-34, WR10-11, and WR01, WR02-04, WR12-14, WR 22-25. Margaurite Lake (WR15) area not covered this count period due lack of participants.

Weather: Day 1: Temp 13 to 21°C (Mean Temp 17°C)

Wind speed: 6 to 30 km/hr. Gusts to 37 km/h around 6AM while rain front moved through. Below 7km/hr through until noon then increased in afternoon hours with highest winds avg 22 km/h in late afternoon/early evening. Wind direction: variable from W through N.

Precipitation: Light rain 3:30AM to 9AM

Comments: Over 16.5 hours of visible light. Temps slightly above seasonal average (8 to 21°C) (Cloudy to Partly Cloudy in AM, Fair after 2PM.

Day 2: Temp. 8 to 23°C (Mean Temp 16°C)

Wind speed: Increased from Calm at 5AM to 28-30 km/h W to WNW by 10AM. Gusts to 41 km/h in early afternoon.

Precipitation: N/A

Comments: Temps near seasonal average (9 to 21°C). Gusty winds through much of day. Mostly Cloudy through most of day fair skies from 11AM to 2PM.

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage: 744.5 km; by vehicle 715; on foot 9.5 km; by bike 20 km

Total team hours: 79.1 hr; by vehicle 68.55 hr; on foot 5.8 hr; by bike 1.75 hr;

Feeder watch 3 hr

Number of Species: 144 (+ 11 CW)

Number of Birds: 16,172 (+ 25 CW)

Other species seen during count week: 11 (1 x Red-breasted Merganser, Swainson's Hawk, Boreal Owl, Brown Thrasher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Cape May Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler; 2 x Virginia Rail and Bay-Breasted Warbler; and 13 x Sanderling)

Highlights: The total species reported this year (144) matched last year's for count weekend and was once again below count history average (163), even with count week species (11) added. These results may be partly attributable to the final May weekend falling earlier for this spring's count. It was early in the migration period for many species. Participation and effort levels were unfortunately also down due to some late withdrawals as result of illness/injury. The 77mm of rain which fell during the normally productive morning period on Saturday also impacted count results, along with the very breezy weather on Sunday. The Cold Lake area was again enjoying a fairly wet spring with high water levels in the wetlands. High water and lack of mud flats/shoreline also negatively impacted the area as a migration stopover for shorebirds, with many of these species not observed this year. For example, the small numbers of American Avocets located on a lake NW of La Corey was well below that normally found there. Many of the insect eating birds – swallows, flycatchers, warblers etc. were present in only small numbers and some species were not noted back yet. Several other arctic or northern migrants also may already have passed through. As many of the species were also not encountered during count week efforts there were probably fewer migrants and resident birds yet around. Weather conditions on scouting days prior to and following the weekend were very good which enabled a few additional count week species but also indicated that many species were not yet present. A planned boat outing on Cold Lake on Sunday afternoon was cancelled due to gusty wind conditions.

Prior to the count a complete historical review of our A-B-C list was conducted and resulted in some up or down movement of species between these lists. Our A list (>75% of counts) is now comprised of 152 species (down from 167), B list (25-75% of counts) is now 43 (up from 33), and C list (<25% of counts) is now 45 (up from 38). This trend would indicate that species regular observed earlier in our count history are becoming less common to find.

From our regular "A" list, Eared Grebe topped out the Waterfowl numbers this year, followed by Mallard, American Coot and Blue-Winged Teal. Next came Canada Goose, Northern Shoveler and Lesser Scaup bundled close together in quantities. Franklin's Gulls and Black Tern accounted for over 10,000 of our total individual count numbers. Strangely not a single Downy Woodpecker was tallied. Red-winged Blackbird, American Crow and Cliff Swallow were the top three in the passerine category.

Only 18 of the possible 22 Warbler species were tallied (5 CW included) with Tennessee Warbler and Yellow Warbler topping the numbers. Observation includes CW observations of List B Nashville and Bay-Breasted warblers. Many of the warbler

species were only encountered back in small numbers. Other Songbird numbers were led by Red-Winged Blackbird, followed by Cliff Swallow.

Highlights from our C list (birds observed on less than 25% of counts) was a Count Week Brown Thrasher observed in the Cold Lake Prov Park day use area by Peter Roxburgh on Thurs of count week (only 2nd recorded sighting in Cold Lake area and 1st for the May count). A Boreal Owl was also heard by Richard Klauke during Count Week calling near the Primrose Hwy on the west side of Cold Lake (only 3rd May Count observation).

Highlights from the B list (25-75% of counts) were Snow Goose (2) English Bay, Hooded Merganser(3), Virginia Rail (CW2) (with one providing great viewing and photo's immediately in front of Hall's Lagoon viewing platform where it entertained through a territorial squabble with a Sora), Swainson's Hawk (CW1), American Golden Plover(28), Sharp-Tailed Sandpiper(2), Red-Necked Phalarope(10), Sabine's Gull(3), Philadelphia Vireo(1), Nashville(CW1), Bay-Breasted Warbler(CW2), Gray Catbird(3) and Rusty Blackbird(1).

Crooked Lake, Athabasca County

Date: May 31, 2018

Compiler: Joan Sherman

Participants: Joan Sherman

Area Covered: driveway, trails, & county road bordering mixed wood boreal forest, lake, and lake outlet

Weather: Day 1: Temp. 10 to 20°C

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

Precipitation: nil

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage on foot: 5.6 km

Total team hours on foot: 3 hr

Number of Species: 38 (+4CW)

Number of Birds: 164

Other species seen during count week: Common Raven, Black Tern, American White Pelican, Song Sparrow

Comments: Lake water choppy, few ducks visible. Fewer birds seen this year.

Crowsnest Pass

Date: May 30, 31, 2018

Compiler: Marilyn Liddell, Pat Lucas

Participants: Pat Lucas, Denise Coccioloni-Amatto, Nel van Kamer, Diane Stinson, David Scott, Karen Nicholson, Doug Nicholson, Mike Bentley, Marilyn Liddell, Judy Cooke, Teresa Dolman, Doug Dolman, Lisa Gaunt, Gail Des Moulins, Alistair Des Moulins, David McIntyre, Monica Field, Shirley Linderman

Area Covered: from Summit Lake at BC/Alberta border east to junction of Highways 3 & 22, north on 22, visiting east and west sideroads to the Gap **Specific Locations covered - Day 1:** Summit Lake, Crowsnest Lake, wetlands east of Visitor Centre, Allison Road, Chinook Lake, Willow Drive and wetlands to the west, roadways north of Hwy 3, areas within Crowsnest Pass municipal boundaries from East Hillcrest Bridge to

the wetlands between Coleman and Blairmore, Lundbreck, Cowley, Todd Creek day use area, **Day 2:** Junction of Hwys 3 & 22 to the Gap – exploring sideroads to the east and west, including Chapel Rock Rd., Wildcat Ranch Rd., Willow Valley Rd., Township Rd. 8.4, Waldron Flats road.

Weather: Day 1: Temp. 5° to 17.5° C

Wind speed: no significant wind

Precipitation: occasional light rain in some of the areas covered

Comments: a lovely day for birding

Day 2: Temp. 4.5° to 8° C

Wind speed: no significant wind

Precipitation: rained during the entire count day, never very heavy and sometimes diminishing to a light drizzle

Comments: a productive day despite the miserable weather

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage: 186.9 km; by vehicle 179.2; on foot 7.7 km

Total team hours: 44.45 hr; by vehicle 36.5 hr; on foot 7.95 hr.

Number of Species: 138 – tied with 2015 for the highest number of species in a spring count

Number of Birds: 3398

Other species seen during count week: none

Highlights: Though we have spotted them for many of the previous spring counts, it was a delight to see Harlequin Ducks, Upland Sandpipers and Wilson's Phalaropes again. We also counted a fairly rare, for us, Black-chinned Hummingbird. Despite the miserable weather on Day 2 of the count, the birds showed up, as did a healthy number of hearty birdwatchers.

Fort McMurray

Date: May 26, 27, 2018

Compiler: Christine Godwin

Participants: 23

Area Covered: Areas north, south and in town of Fort McMurray

Weather: Day 1: Temp. 14 to 19°C

Wind speed: 10 to 30 km/hr. Wind direction: WSW

Precipitation: light showers early in the morning

Comments: mostly sunny day, cleared up after the early rain showers, windy afternoon

Day 2: Temp. 12 to 23°C

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

Precipitation: none

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage: 368.9 km; by vehicle 306; on foot 62.9 km

Total team hours: 55 hr; by vehicle 15 hr; on foot 40 hr.

Number of Species: 125 (+ 1 CW)

Number of Birds: 4151

Other species seen during count week: Baltimore Oriole

Highlights: Great Blue Heron Rookery with 10 nests and 3 birds located near the municipal landfill

Lac La Biche

Date: May 26, 27, 2018

Compiler: Jennifer Okrainec

Participants: Muriel and Jennifer Mueller, Bob and Mary Dunn, Clara McArthur, Mary Teslin, Dave and Kathy Lawson, Bernie Gauthier, Jennifer, Cooper and Jacob Okrainec

Area Covered: no information available

Weather: no information available

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage: 310 km by vehicle 306

Total team hours: 21 hr. by vehicle

Number of Species: 86

Number of Birds: 885

Lethbridge

Date: May 26, 27, 2018

Compiler: Teresa Dolman

Participants: Linda Cerney, Douglas Dolman, Teresa Dolman, Graeme Greenlee, Pat Greenlee, Ted Nanninga, Brook Skagen, David Scott, Mira Vanhala, Jay Yanke

Area Covered: Lethbridge & 50-Km radius

Weather: Day 1: Temp. 18 to 23°C

Wind speed: 9 to 60 km/hr. Wind direction: NW

Precipitation: 0 mm

Day 2: Temp. 14 to 25°C

Wind speed: 9 to 44 km/hr. Wind direction: SW

Precipitation: 0 mm

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage: 155.1 km; by vehicle 89 km; on foot 66.1 km

Total team hours: 65 hr; by vehicle 15.2 hr; on foot 49.8 hr.

Number of Species: 129 (+ 3 CW)

Number of Birds: 6016

Other species seen during count week: Wood Duck, Golden Eagle, Yellow-breasted Chat

Highlights: The 130 species recorded on count days handily exceeded the long-term average of 116. Two species were added to the overall list – Willow Flycatcher and Nashville Warbler. For only the fourth time a Bald Eagle and a Swan were recorded.

Medicine Hat

Date: May 27, 2018

Compiler: Marty Drut

Participants: 36 Barry Anderson, Judy Anderson, Darlene Black, Jim Black, Eileen Cowtan, Marty Drut, Fay Felesky, Val Felesky, Linda Fisher, Bob Frew, Corlaine Gardner, Rob Gardner, Martha Munz Gue, Lauren Hider, Sue Higgins, Annalora Horch, Phil Horch, Alfred Keep, Jim Knelson, Cam Lockerbie, Valerie Martins, Cash Moore,

Meaghan Morter, Mark Oxmitny, Colton Prins, Betty Rainville, Jo-Anne Reynolds, Mark Schiebelbein, John Slater, Elaine Spitzer, Milt Spitzer, Donna Steele, Angela Turner, Ian Turner, Ben Velner, Michael Velner

Area Covered: Medicine Hat and surrounding

Weather: Day 1: Temp. 11 to 29°C

Wind speed: 4 to 17 km/hr. Wind direction: SE - NE

Precipitation: none

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage: 663.8 km; by vehicle 556.5; on foot 102.3 km, by bike 5 km.

Total team hours: 106.5 hr; by vehicle 47 hr; on foot 52 hr; by bike 1.5 hr

Number of Species: 129

Number of Birds: 9955

Other species seen during count week: None

Highlights: The 34th Spring Count was blessed with good weather – temperatures were relatively seasonal (high 29° C, low 11° C) and winds were moderate (4-17 km/hr). With these good conditions, 129 species were observed, which was up 1 species from 2017 and fairly typical for our count in the past 4 years. Individual birds counted (9,955) increased about 15% from 2017 and returned to similar levels observed on the 2014-2016 counts (see Data Summary Table, below). Species that were down in 2017 had mixed returns in 2018. Three species of Icterids (Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Baltimore Oriole) increased whereas 4 species (Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, and Common Grackle) decreased. Other species rebounding in 2018 were Canada Goose, Mallard, Ring-billed Gull, Black-capped Chickadee, and House (English) Sparrow. However, Great Blue Heron, Rock Pigeon, Vesper and Savannah Sparrows declined for a second consecutive count.

The number of species with high counts increased in 2018 as well. All-time highs were observed for Turkey Vulture, Merlin, Eurasian-collared Dove, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, House Wren, and American Robin (see Species Table). Only 3 species had highs in 2017. Other species with notable increases from 2017 were Canvasback, Redhead, American White Pelican, American Coot, Franklin's Gull, California Gull, Mourning Dove, Western Wood Pewee, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and American Goldfinch. In 2018, there was only 1 species with an all-time low: Northern Pintail. No new species were observed in 2018 and no species were seen exclusively during count week but not on count day.

Species missing from this year's count that are usually seen included Wood Duck, Eurasian Wigeon, Bufflehead, Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Avocet, Upland Sandpiper, Black Tern, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Blackpoll Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Pine Siskin.

Less frequently seen species noted in 2017 were Golden Eagle (1), Broad-winged Hawk (1), Solitary Sandpiper (1), Semipalmated Sandpiper (1), Herring Gull (6), Common Tern (1), Common Nighthawk (1), Yellow-bellied sapsucker (1), Pileated Woodpecker (1), Eastern Phoebe (1), Say's Phoebe (2), Orange-crowned Warbler (1), Wilson's Warbler (1), American Redstart (1), Brewer's Sparrow (2), Baird's Sparrow (1),

Indigo Bunting (3), and Bobolink (1). Herring Gull and Eastern Phoebe were last seen during the count in 2013, Common Nighthawk in 2010, and Indigo Bunting in 2005.

The Top 10 for 2018 were European Starling (1,275), American Robin (950), Canada Goose (713), Red-winged Blackbird (465), Yellow Warbler (444), Common Grackle (418), House (English) Sparrow (402), Ring-billed Gull (341), Western Meadowlark (339), and House Wren (314). Two species, Ring-billed Gull and House (English) Sparrow, returned to the Top 10 in 2018 replacing Rock Pigeon and Black-billed Magpie; those later 2 species fell to positions 11 and 12.

As for flowers, 65 species were observed in bloom, which was down for a second straight year but still relatively similar when compared to previous years.

Count effort was excellent in 2018. Participants (36) were down slightly from 2017 whereas observation hours (106.5) increased (see Data Summary Table). Many thanks to all those who volunteered their time this year!

Table 1. 2018 Spring Bird Count All Time High and Low Observations.

2018 Spring Bird Count – Highs and Lows			
Species	High	Previous High	Year
Turkey Vulture	42	23	2008
Merlin	11	10 (4 times)	2010 (Most recent)
Eurasian-collared Dove	81	80	2016
Northern Flicker	93	85	2013, 1995
Blue Jay	34	33	2016
House Wren	314	272	2002
American Robin	950	918	2010
Species	Low	Previous Low	Year
Northern Pintail	11	14	1998

DATA SUMMARY 2014 - 2018					
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total Individuals	9,955	8,625	9,977	9,152	10,114
Total Bird Species	129	128	130	126	144
Total Flower Species	65	68	75	66	60
Participants	36	38	41	38	37
Total Km Walked	102.3	123	166.8	123.5	139
Total Km Driven	556.5	530	509.5	434	272
Total Km Biked	5	-	-	-	-
Hours of Observation	106.5	101.5	105	99	101.5
on foot:	52	64.25	64	52	70
by car:	47	35.25	38	37	29.5
by bicycle:	1.5	-	-	-	-
feeder:	6	2	3	10	2

Milk River 2015

Date: May 27, 28, 2017

Compiler: Bob Parsons

Participants: 11

Area Covered: coulees, native grassland, ponds, sloughs, woodlots, agricultural lands, camping sites, railroads

Weather: Day 1: Temp. 15 to 25°C

Wind speed: 5 to 10 km/hr.

Precipitation: 0

Comments: mostly sunny

Day 2: Temp. 16 to 24°C

Wind speed: 5 to 15 km/hr.

Precipitation: 0

Comments: some gusty winds

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage: 1291.5 km; by vehicle 1283 km; on foot 8.5 km

Total team hours: 116 hr; by vehicle 108 hr; on foot 8 hr.

Number of Species: 128 (+6 CW)

Number of Birds: 19987 (+6 CW)

Other species seen during count week: Turkey Vulture, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Ovenbird, Lark Sparrow, Bullock's Oriole (1 of each)

Highlights: Big numbers of ducks and shorebirds due to water everywhere. Excellent birds include Belted Kingfisher, Trump Swans, Yellow bellied Flycatcher. Missing birds include BO, Bank Swallow, Whimbrel, Clarks grebe, Brewers Sparrow

Taber

Date: May 26, 27, 2018

Compiler: Lloyd Bennett

Participants: James Bennett, Lloyd Bennett, Mary Bennett, Yolanda Bennett, Ben Tams

Area Covered: Taber, Vauxhall, Purple Springs Dunes

Weather: Day 1: Temp. 12 to 24°C

Wind speed: 6 to 40 km/hr. Wind direction: NW

Precipitation: 0 mm

Day 2: Temp. 10 to 26°C

Wind speed: 3 to 27 km/hr. Wind direction: N

Precipitation: 0 mm

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage: 472 km; by vehicle 466 km; on foot 6 km

Total team hours: 27.5 hr; by vehicle 21.5 hr; on foot 6 hr.

Number of Species: 124 (+ 2 CW)

Number of Birds: 8954

Other species seen during count week: Caspian Tern, Pine Siskin

Highlights: The total number of species (124) was very close to the long-term average of 126. No new species were added, but Dark-eyed Junco was seen for only the second time, Clark's Grebe and Black-headed Grosbeak for only the third time, and Red-breasted Merganser for only the fourth time.

Wakomao Lake

Date: May 29, 2018

Compiler: Jim Lange

Participants: Jim Lange

Area Covered: no information available

Weather: Day 1: Temp. 15 to 24°C

Wind speed: 25 km/hr. Wind direction: SW

Comments: mix of sun and cloud

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage by vehicle: 80 km

Total team hours by vehicle: 9 hr.

Number of Species: 53

Number of Birds: 444

Waterton Lakes National Park

Date: June 2, 3, 2018

Compiler: Teresa Dolman

Participants: Daniel Arndt, Lloyd Bennett, Yolanda Bennett, Bruce Di Labio, Douglas Dolman, Teresa Dolman, Lois Everett, Graeme Greenlee, Pat Greenlee, Sandra Hawkins, Pat Lucas, Dianne Pachal, Mira Vanhala

Area Covered: Within Park

Weather: Day 1: Temp. 10 to 18°C

Wind speed: 25 to 55 km/hr. Wind direction: SW

Precipitation: 0 mm

Day 2: Temp. 12 to 23°C

Wind speed: 13 to 40 km/hr. Wind direction: SW

Precipitation: 0 mm

Team Distance/Hours:

Total team mileage: 126.7 km; by vehicle 98 km; on foot 28.7 km

Total team hours: 37 hr; by vehicle 12.7 hr; on foot 24.3 hr.

Number of Species: 107 (+ 9 CW)

Number of Birds: 1495

Other species seen during count week: Harlequin Duck, Red-necked Grebe, Gray Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, Varied Thrush, Brewer's Sparrow, Mourning Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Common Grackle

Highlights: The 109 species recorded was very close to the long-term average of 107 species. This was noteworthy, given the fact that a large portion of the Park was burned last fall and therefore off-limits to birders. No new species were added to the overall list, but some uncommon birds showed up – Western Grebe and Philadelphia Vireo on count days, and Common Grackle, Mourning Warbler and Black-throated Green Warbler during count week. Common Nighthawk was recorded after an absence of 8 years and Red-necked Grebe after an absence of 9 years.