

May Species Count 2020

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The number of species went down this year: from 277 last year to 263 this year. The highest number of species recorded since 2006 was 280 in 2009 and the lowest was 262 in 2016. The number of individual birds also went down: from 172,192 last year to 119,601 which is the lowest number recorded since 2006. The highest number recorded was 310,396 in 2011. (The reason for this could be that there were a number of Counts that didn't happen because of the COVID-19 pandemic.) This year was the first time since 2006 that a Northern Parula was recorded (as a Count Week bird.).

In 2019, the three most numerous species were the Franklin's Gull (12,804), Red-winged Blackbird (12,258), and Canada Goose (9,404). In 2020, the 3 most numerous species were the Canada Goose (10,982), Red-winged Blackbird (7,628) and Cliff Swallow (5,635).

This year, 30 species were found in only one location around the province. In BowKan: Sabine's Gull, and Rusty Blackbird. In Brooks: Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Pectoral Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, American Pipit, and McCown Longspur. In Calgary: Long-billed Dowitcher, Arctic Tern, and Red Crossbill. In Central Alberta: Northern Saw-whet owl. In Cold Lake: Greater White-fronted Goose, Virginia Rail, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Sedge Wren, Blackburnian Warbler, and Palm Warbler. In Fort McMurray: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Sage Thrasher, Lapland Longspur, and Harris's Sparrow. In Lethbridge: Baird's Sandpiper. In Medicine Hat: Grasshopper Sparrow. In Taber: Snow Goose. In Waterton: Dusky Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Vaux's Swift, Pacific Wren.

18 species were found in 2 locations around the province. Wood Duck in Beavais Lake and Calgary. White-winged Scoter in Lethbridge and Taber. Clark's Grebe in Brooks and Taber. Caspian Tern in Cold Lake and Taber. Common Nighthawk and Common Redpoll in BowKan and Cold Lake. American Three-toed Woodpecker in Calgary and Fort McMurray. Peregrine Falcon in Calgary and Central Alberta. American Dipper in Calgary and Waterton. Townsend's Solitaire and Baird's Sparrow in Calgary and Medicine Hat. Chestnut-collared Longspur in Brooks and Taber. Chestnut-sided Warbler and Canada Warbler in Cold Lake and Fort McMurray. Yellow-breasted Chat in Coyote Lake and Lethbridge. American Tree Sparrow in Medicine Hat and Waterton. Brewer's Sparrow in Taber and Waterton. In Mountainview and Lethbridge: Bullock's Oriole.

Last year we had 6 species in all areas. This year we had 9 species in all areas: Canada Goose, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Northern Flicker, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, American Robin, and Red-winged Blackbird.

Last year 12 species were found in all but one area, and 6 species were found in all but two areas. This year 12 species were found in all but one area: American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Bufflehead, Red-tailed Hawk, Wilson's Snipe, Eastern Kingbird, European Starling, Yellow Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-coloured Sparrow, and Savannah Sparrow. This year 16 species were found in all but two areas: Lesser Scaup,

Ruddy Duck, Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Downy Woodpecker, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle and Brown-headed Cowbird.