

As with other counts over the last ten months, COVID-19 restrictions dictated that we deviate from our normal practices to keep everyone safe. This year, participants travelled in convoy or surveyed smaller areas on their own.

The ninety-nine participants on count day, a near record turnout, found 44 species, two more than the long-term average (LTA) amid mild temperatures, light winds and sunny skies. With many more small groups surveying this year, the overall effort as measured by total time spent driving and on foot was 80% higher than normal. To reflect that and make valid comparisons between the current counts and the LTAs, in the discussion below, the current year counts have been adjusted downward by a factor of 0.55 (=LTA hours/current year hours). The counts in the table are unadjusted.

Canada Geese were notable by their absence on the river – 85% below the LTA. Two female or juvenile Hooded Merganser, not reported on the count for over 15 years, were seen on the river near River Heights / Meewasin Park. In the same area late in the afternoon, 950 (± 50) Common Goldeneye were seen over a 40-minute period, flying upstream.

Gray Partridge were abundant this year, as the count set a 15-year high, more than triple the LTA.

The House Finch count was higher than last year but is still only 55% of the LTA. House Finch are particularly susceptible to Avian Conjunctivitis and the local urban population declined in recent years and has yet to recover. Among the irruptive finches, only White-winged Crossbill approached the LTA (96%). Among the others, the Pine Grosbeak count was 62% of the LTA, while Common Redpoll (9%), Red Crossbill (0%) and Pine Siskin (53%) counts were even less.

Thank you to all participants for your contributions to the count. Please join us again next year.

Stan Shadick, Organizer

John Patterson, Compiler

2020 Saskatoon Bird Mammal Count - Dec 26, 2020

C1	C2	C3a	C3b	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	NEa	NEb	NEc	NW	NWc	SEa	SEb	SEcd	SWa	SWb	Sector	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012																				
18	15	14	10	13	7	11	11	8	13	21	13	13	17	17	25	13	28	19	13	Total Species - count day	44	38	39	43	42	45	43	40	42																				
																					Total Species - count period		5	2	1	1	2	2	2	5																			
13.8	6.2	6.9	4.7	5.0	2.1	5.4	4.8	3.9	12.6	21.2	5.1	10.0	10.9	24.6	6.0	6.3	7.8	10.2	5.5	Party Hours	172.8	93.5	93.5	96.0	88.8	95.1	95.0	100.8	98.4																				
5	8	9	5	1	1	3	8	5	11	9	3	6	2	12	7	2	3	3	2	Participants	99	77	61	69	80	81	93	93	117																				
BIRDS																																																	
																					Cackling Goose					140																							
				4					154	17				8	3			3		Canada GOOSE	186	1918	2100	776	680	175	18		1																				
																					Duck sp.																												
2				22					114	7				6				13		MALLARD	142	46	85	9	19	10	44	169	55																				
																					Canvasback																												
																					Redhead					(1)																							
																					Ring-necked Duck			2																									
									1												Lesser Scaup	1		5	2																								
																					Harlequin Duck					(1)	1																						
																					Bufflehead																												
13			3	31					61	950				1				4		Common GOLDENEYE	1032	721	178	121	1050	247	154	160	79																				
																					Barrow's Goldeneye																												
																					Common Merganser									2																			
										2											Hooded Merganser	2																											
																					Ring-necked Pheasant																												
										17			14	10	12	16	10	59	6	Gray PARTRIDGE	144			9		28	29		12																				
																					Ruffed GROUSE				1					2																			
													15		3		14				SHARP-TAILED Grouse	32	9	64	35	46	7	28	28	7																			
123	5	19	28	405		16	35	7	102	146	17	34	74	648	8	5	97	571	15	Rock PIGEON	2272	1410	2028	1314	1565	2486	2432	1962	1823																				
	2											7			1		22			EURASIAN COLLARED Dove	32	40	40	30	30	21	12	10	5																				
																					Mourning Dove						1	2	5	1																			
																					Gull sp																												
																					Turkey Vulture									(1)																			
																					Hawk sp.			1	1																								
																					Accipiter sp																												
		1					1											1			Sharp-shinned HAWK	3	1	(1)	2	3			1	(2)																			
																					Cooper's Hawk																												
														2		1					Northern GOSHAWK	3						4	2	(1)																			
																					Buteo sp																												
									1	1					1			1			Bald EAGLE	3			(1)		2	1	(1)																				
																					Red-tailed Hawk																												
																					ROUGH-LEGGED Hawk				1	1	(1)																						
														1							Great Horned OWL	1	(1)	2	1	4	3		3	3																			
																					SNOWY Owl						2	(1)																					
																					Northern Hawk Owl								1	(1)																			
																					Short-eared Owl																												

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C1	C2	C3a	C3b	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	NEa	NEb	NEc	NW	NWc	SEa	SEb	SEcd	SWa	SWb	Sector	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	
1																				Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	(1)								
																					Woodpecker sp.			1		2	2	1		
																					American Three-toed Woodpecker		(1)	1						
																					Black-backed Woodpecker		(1)						1	
				1																	Picoides sp	1								
8	4	2	3				3		3	4	1	3	2	7	6	2	11	4	2	Downy WOODPECKER	65	47	44	51	36	48	31	50	44	
2	2									1					2	3	3		7	HAIRY Woodpecker	20	17	21	21	14	17	14	18	16	
																	1			PILEATED Woodpecker	1	1	2	1	1	1	2			
2	1	3			1	2	1	2	2		1		2	4			1			Northern FLICKER	22	10	16	12					24	
																					Northern Flicker(red-shafted)						1			
																					Northern Flicker (yellow-sh.)				17	8	15	22		
																					American Kestrel									
											2										MERLIN	4	1	2	5	7	3	2	6	5
																					Gyrfalcon		1						1	
																					Northern SHRIKE		1	1	2	1	2		2	1
7	6	6	5		7	2	17	4	7	18	4	8	13	11	19	3	15	5	3	Blue JAY	160	69	102	96	54	47	82	170	60	
38	28	23	28	44	3	13	10	17	60	81	23	30	31	67	86	14	63	31	36	Black-billed MAGPIE	726	411	476	368	432	289	402	567	399	
5																	2			American CROW	7	4	4	3	3	13	14	10	1	
10	20	1	5	15	1	7	7		21	36	1	9	28	27	119	2	37	107	46	Common RAVEN	499	174	128	234	196	341	365	431	357	
																					Horned Lark					2				
138	39	69	62	28	32	43	72	13	95	91	39	45	64	69	81	16	78	70	34	Black-capped CHICKADEE	1178	729	800	744	852	728	848	942	747	
																					Boreal Chickadee							1		
										1											Golden-crowned KINGLET	1	(2)		5	4	2	10	10	
45	10	15	12	10	8	4	6	7	22	25	21	14	14	21	9	1	29	17	1	Red-breasted NUTHATCH	291	168	143	96	211	100	72	103	215	
2		3									2	2		2	5	1	2	6	4	WHITE-BREADED Nuthatch	29	17	24	16	17	10	17	16	4	
		2				1				1		1									Brown CREEPER	5	3		1	2	2	1		6
	1																85				European STARLING	86	1	14	33	233	148	57	109	207
																					Townsend's Solitaire		1			2	1			
															1						Varied Thrush	1		1	1	1				1
													1								Hermit Thrush	1								
		4		1									1								American ROBIN	8	3		10	10	37	3	34	2
										8		8			260		45	164	367		Bohemian WAXWING	852	476	270	397	460	1021	1130	173	2696
																					CEDAR Waxwing			30		5	101		50	11
871	118	297	288	23	192	38	375	148	561	81	40	418	1280	650	56	102	550	163	41	HOUSE Sparrow	6292	3515	3379	2668	2512	1976	1861	2778	1617	
																					Finch sp.									
																					Evening GROSBEAK									
															30	3	10		5		PINE Grosbeak	48	15		59	2	66	15	5	271
25	29	7	6	3		11	83	6	27	72	20	22	76	28	2		28	23		House FINCH	468	213	353	454	323	525	409	480	492	
																					PURPLE Finch		1		2			1	1	
																					Cassin's Finch							(1)	1	
													4	10	23	6					Common REDPOLL	43	5	46	251	110	494	62	5	1060

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																					HOARY Redpoll				4		10	1		8
																					Red CROSSBILL		36	7		10	137	1	7	98
6	4									3	2		19		54		44				WHITE-WINGED Crossbill	132	6	1	12	255	115	24		559
28														2			6				Pine SISKIN	36	9	159	4	35		3		
																	2				American GOLDFINCH	2	3	1		3		11	9	2
													30		11		25				Snow BUNTING	66	56	5	3	200	22	31	396	31
	1			1					2			1			3		2				Dark-eyed JUNCO	10	2	19	3	14	7	18	9	21
																					White-crowned Sparrow									(1)
																					Harris's Sparrow				2			2		
									1				1								White-throated SPARROW	2	1	2	1	1		2	3	2
																					Song Sparrow						1			1
																					Spotted Towhee			(1)		1				
	s																				Brewer's Blackbird						1	3		
																					Brown-headed Cowbird									
						1				1											Common Grackle	2		1					(1)	
																					Pine Warbler						1			
1326	270	452	440	588	244	138	610	204	1234	1548	188	602	1665	1565	785	191	1190	1245	567	Total Birds - count day	14912	10141	10557	7862	9560	9262	8238	8750	10949	
																					Total Birds - count period		6	2	1	1	2	2	2	6

The total bird count may be less than the sum of the sector counts due to the elimination of potential duplicate counts on the river.

() - count period observations (Dec 14 - Jan 5). These are recorded only if the species was not observed on count day.

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C1	C2	C3a	C3b	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	NEa	NEb	NEc	NW	NWc	SEa	SEb	SEcd	SWa	SWb	Sector	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	
																					MAMMALS									
																					Shrew sp.						T			
																					Nuttall's Cottontail							T		
		1T	2T																		Snowshoe Hare	3T	T	2	2	2	1	2	2	T
1, 1T	3T	1T	1, 8T		2	xT	1, 1T		5, 6T	4		1	16	1, 6T	xT		3, 17T	4	2T		White-tailed Jackrabbit	39	20	3	T	7	1	2	2	7
																					Franklin's Ground Squirrel								1	
																					Eastern Grey Squirrel							2	2	
				1					1T	2	3			2	2		3		1		American Red Squirrel	14	9	12	5	8	6	5	12	13
									1T												Beaver	1T				1			D	
																					Deer Mouse						T	T	T	
																					Muskrat								1	
							1, 1T														Vole sp.	1	T				T	T	T	
																					Meadow Vole				1					
														1T							Mouse sp.	1T	T				1			
									1T												House Mouse	2T								1
															1		1, 1T	1T			Porcupine	2	T		1	D				1
															2		13	3			Coyote	18	4	1	5	2	3	11	3	7
									2						1	1					Red Fox	4	T		1	1		1	T	1
																					American Marten									C
																					Ermine				1					
																					Weasel sp.						1		T	
																					Least Weasel							1		
									1T												Mink	1T	T					T		
																					American badger				T					
																					Striped Skunk					M				
																					Deer sp.					T				
																			6		Mule Deer	6		6				T	4	5
															xT		9				White-tailed Deer	9	32	22	47	28	7	53		31
																					Moose									1

T - tracks, D - chewing or digging, M - carcass, C - detected in count period,

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C1	C2	C3a	C3b	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	NEa	NEb	NEc	NW	NWc	SEa	SEb	SEcd	SWa	SWb	Sector	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012							
																					PARTICIPANTS															
C1	Sara Bryson , Erin Lang , Anna Leighton , Meghan Mickelson , Adrian Werner																																			
C2	Donna Bruce , Greg Fenty FW , Nick Saunders FW , Alison Philips FW , Kariann McCrea FW , Sabryna McCrea FW 18, William Robertson , Mary Maxwell																																			
C3a	Stan Shadick , Jan Shadick , Blair McCann , Keith Moore , Trent Watts , Olive Watts 18, Hamish Watts 18, Jane McPhee , Shan Landry																																			
C3b	LeeAnn Latremouille , Mercy Harris, Kiel Drake , Stan Shadick , Jan Shadick																																			
C4	Robert Johanson																																			
C5	Mike Gollop																																			
C6	Diane Wells , Monica Salles , Sally Postlewaite FW																																			
C7	Jim Paul , Lorie Henderson , Jacob Henderson 18, Julia Henderson 18, Ava Paul 18, Gerald Paul 18, Audrey MacKenzie , Bill MacKenzie																																			
C8	Greg Fenty , Terri Jackson , Jennifer Fenty 18, Norman Zlotkin FW , Jill Postlewaite FW																																			
C9	Raea Gooding , Troy Lange , Blair McCann , Carol Blenkin , Stan Shadick , Darren Sutcliffe , Darla Tenold , Philip Taylor , Greg Hutchings , Janet Loran, Don Loran																																			
NEa	Bob Godwin , Kathy Meeres , Hilda Voth , Peter Gerrard FW , Deb Hicks , Cal Hicks , Marella Rosta FW , Scott Olshanoski , Ian Burt																																			
NEb	Ron Jensen , Elisabeth Walker 18, Dale Walker																																			
NEc	Guy Wapple , Joanne Adams FW , Scott Mitchell , Marguerite Wapple FW , Sandra Wapple FW , Helen Wilkins FW																																			
NW	Joshua Erikson , Ryan Dudragne																																			
NWc	David Forbes , Kathlin Simpkins , Glenn Dougan , Bruce Chamberlin , Diane Rogers FW , Jaimie Peters FW , Angela Fast FW, Brent Fast FW, Hailey Fast FW, Leah Luciuk , Ryan Luciuk, Janine McManus																																			
SEa	Nick Saunders, Dawn Hall, Patricia Bell FW, Lee Bell FW, Mary Girard, Greg Girard, Abigail Girard																																			
SEb	Lorne Duczek , Kosala Rajapaksha																																			
SEcd	Marten Stoffel , Jody Kerslake , Dan Zazelenchuck																																			
SWa	John Patterson , Marc Sabourin , George West																																			
SWb	Melanie Elliott , Alexander Acton																																			

FW - Feeder Watcher, 18 - Youth

																					EFFORT										
10:15	9:08	9:40	9:40	9:43	12:30	9:00	9:30	9:45	10:20	9:32	9:55	9:00	10:31	9:15	9:20	9:00	8:15	9:40	9:32	Start Time	8:15										
17:05	16:50	14:50	11:45	15:30	14:35	11:25	15:45	14:50	15:24	17:15	16:15	17:15	16:43	16:30	15:20	10:45	16:00	15:10	15:30	End Time	17:15										
12.5	5.5	6.9	4.7	4.2	2.1	3.9	2.0	0.3	9.4	13.5	2.9	8.8	7.3	20.3	5.0	2.8		3.8	0.4	Time on foot (hr)	116.3	46.4	46.3	30.0	44.9	45.7	45.7	51.1	44.4		
1.3	0.7			0.8		1.5	2.8	3.6	3.2	7.7	2.2	1.3	3.6	4.3	1.0	3.5	7.8	6.4	5.0	Time by Car (hr)	56.5	47.1	47.2	66.0	43.9	49.4	49.3	49.7	54.0		
3.1	10.5					4.3		3.3	0.7		0.5	3.5		1.0	12.0					Time at Feeder (hr)	38.9	48.9	15.9	54.0	95.0	109.0	106.0	116.0	124.0		
33.4	13.2	14.2	16.8	10.0	10.5	5.9	9.5	0.3	18.8	38.7	5.3	9.0	33.4	30.6	26.0	4.0		6.0	0.7	Dist by foot/ski (km)	286.3	107.3	89.0	72.0	56.3	77.6	61.9	71.7	79.0		
6.0	14.5			20.0		9.0	52.0	32.0	13.1	43.0	42.5	28.0	66.3	66.7	29.0	76.0	94.0	84.0	74.0	Dist by car (km)	750.1	848.0	772.0	924.0	662.0	746.0	702.0	826.0	708.0		

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																					WEATHER									
																					Min Temp (°C)	-8	-16	-12	-37	-16	-25	-17	-9	-29
																					Max Temp (°C)	-7	-10	-9	-25	-12	-18	-12	-2	-25
																					Min Wind (kph)	10	16	2	9	5	12	6	12	0
																					Max Wind (kph)	20	23	7	15	16	17	24	28	9
24	25	15	15	10			15	10	5		10	5	20	15	10	10	10	20	30	Min Snow Depth (cm)	15	4	2	0	2	5	5	15	15	
38	33	40	40	40			35	20	50		20	20	30	15	15	30	40	40	30	Max Snow Depth (cm)	32	15	15	20	10	15	20	30	45	
100	100	100	100	100		100	100	100	100		95	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Cloud cover AM (%)	100	Cr	PCd	Cr	PCd	MCr	PCd	Cr	PCd	
100	100	100	100	100	100		100	100	100		100	100	100	90	90	100	100	100	90	Cloud cover PM (%)	98	Cr	PCd	Cr	PCd	Cr	MCr	MCr	MCr	

Cr - clear, MCr - mostly clear, PCr - partly clear, MCd - mostly cloudy, PCd - partly cloudy, Cd - cloudy

																					HABITAT									
																					Evergreen forest					<1				
											5										Mixedwood forest					2	1	2	1	1
														5							Deciduous forest					<1		1		
																15	40	15	96		Aspen grove/ farmland	10	10	10	15	6	6	10	10	10
											5										Aspen grove/prairie				5	1	3	1		
																					Native prairie					1	2	1	1	1
															5	15					Tame pasture					1	1	1	1	1
				5							5		15		5	35					Farmland	5	5	5	5	5	6	7	10	10
																10					Farmsteads		5			5	4	9	12	14
95	100	100	75	75	100	100	100	100	60	77	80	100	85	100	80	25	60	70	2	Urban (incl. cottages/landfill)	80	75	70	70	74	70	62	57	57	
				10														5			Open water			5		4	3	4	4	5
5			25	10					40	17	5				5			10	2	Riparian (river bank)	5	5	10	5	1	4	2	4	1	
										6											Other									

																					Wild Fruit Crop	f	f	p	p	f	f	f	g	p
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p -poor, f - fair, g - good, e - excellent