

As with other counts over the last ten months, COVID-19 restrictions meant that, to keep everyone safe, we deviated from our normal practices. Observers travelled in convoy or surveyed smaller areas on their own, rather than travelling together as teams in a single vehicle.

The twenty-three participants faced moderate winds in the morning but had to bring their counts to an end mid-afternoon, when a snow squall blew in and reduced visibility to near zero at times. Despite the abbreviated day, the species count at 29 was just above the long-term average and an additional four species were added in the count period, including a new species for the count – Northern Hawk Owl, spotted by Jimmy MacDonald on Christmas day.

Upland game birds were abundant this year. The counts for Gray Partridge (100) and Sharp-tailed Grouse (87) have been exceeded only once since 2005.

Rock Pigeon were at an all-time high (870) as were Eurasian Collared Dove (16). The latter was first reported in 2007 and counts had not previously exceeded two birds. It continues to become established in Saskatoon and surrounding towns. This year sixteen birds were observed in a backyard in Silverwood.

The count for Downy Woodpecker (7) was 50% of the long-term average and Common Raven (161) were at a 10-year low. In contrast, House Finch (192) were at an all-time high, as they are perhaps recovering in this area from avian conjunctivitis, which has reduced their numbers in recent years, although diseased birds are still being seen in Saskatoon.

With the exception of White-winged Crossbill (27), the irruptive finches that can be expected on this count were largely absent this year (Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin).

Thank you to everyone who participated on the count!

Janine McManus, Organizer

John Patterson, Compiler

2020 Clark's Crossing Christmas Bird Mammal Count, Dec 19, 2020

1-W	2-NW	3-Warm.	4-N	5-NE	6-SE	7-Mart.	8-S	9-Silv.	10-Cent.	SECTOR	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
14	10	13	8	12	11	9	10	11	15	Total Species - count day	29	26	30	36	29	34	24	28	32
										Total Species - count period	3	1	1	1				1	
4.0	4.0	4.3	5.0	4.4	3.9	3.8	5.5	3.0	4.8	Party Hours	42.8	46.0	42.7	40.3	44.5	45.0	45.6	48.5	48.1
2	2	1	2	3	4	1	2	2	6	Participants	25	31	29	24	25	20	18	22	28
										BIRDS									
									1	Canada GOOSE	1	6	483	350	544	920	240	1	
										MALLARD			2	10					
							11	31	40	Common GOLDENEYE	69	77	242	26	1	58			9
										Common Merganser			3						
11	8		30	11	7		26		7	Gray PARTRIDGE	100	58	94	84	39	29	57	40	92
										Ruffed GROUSE									
	11			30	37				9	SHARP-TAILED Grouse	87	65	48	40	36	34	52	96	50
500	84	21	148	46		2	47	1	21	Rock PIGEON	870	372	610	282	182	368	381	158	269
								16		EURASIAN COLLARED Dove	16	2				1		1	
										Mourning Dove				1		1			
										Hawk sp									
										Sharp-shinned HAWK		(1)		2	1				1
										Northern GOSHAWK	(1)								2
				2			2		1	Bald EAGLE	5		2	2	1	8		2	
										Red-tailed Hawk									1
										ROUGH-LEGGED Hawk					1				
		1								Great Horned OWL	1	5	4	3	5	9	1	4	6
										SNOWY Owl	(1)	5	2	2	1	2	1	5	5
										Short-eared Owl									
										Northern Hawk Owl	(1)								
										Northern Saw-whet Owl									
										Picoides sp									
2		1			1				3	Downy WOODPECKER	7	15	17	15	15	10	10	18	26
2				1	3		1		2	HAIRY Woodpecker	9	15	15	10	14	7	8	11	8
										PILEATED Woodpecker									1
										Northern FLICKER			1	1		2			1
1	1									MERLIN	2	1	1	3			2	1	2
										Gyr Falcon						1			
										Northern SHRIKE			2	2			1	1	1
2		4				2		4		Blue JAY	12	25	17	17	9	4	5	6	2
75	36	4	27	29	29	12	27	9	14	Black-billed MAGPIE	262	400	255	272	312	221	318	219	315
						1				American CROW	1				1				
76	3	3	21	18	9	4	19	4	4	Common RAVEN	161	344	243	171	221	191	429	307	313
										Horned Lark			3						
7	21	10	9	15	15	13	12	22	22	Black-capped CHICKADEE	146	184	196	166	210	136	137	209	176

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										Boreal Chickadee									
3		5			1	3		2		Red-breasted NUTHATCH	14	13	17	11	32	3	1	1	49
1	1									WHITE-BREADED Nuthatch	2	1	7	8		3	3	2	
										Brown CREEPER		2		1	2				3
										Golden-crowned KINGLET								1	2
										Townsend's Solitaire						1	1		
										Varied Thrush				1					
						1		2		American ROBIN	3	2	7	1		1	1	35	10
4			50	40					3	European STARLING	97	108	160	303	85	183	165	100	201
			20						35	Bohemian WAXWING	55	36		34	188	67	188	110	725
										CEDAR Waxwing								3	
										Evening GROSBEAK									
					1					PINE Grosbeak	1			34		21	2		94
	3	100				72		8	9	House FINCH	192	85	91	144	117	52	118	71	42
										PURPLE Finch						7			
		4		16	4					Common REDPOLL	24		121	121	60	555	32		1896
										HOARY Redpoll				2		5			11
										Red CROSSBILL						21			
		27								WHITE-WINGED Crossbill	27			5	34	31			34
										Pine SISKIN	(3)	7	15	7	4				
										American GOLDFINCH				2	1				1
1				86						Snow BUNTING	87	57	571	58	1	24		1646	479
										American Tree Sparrow									
										Dark-eyed JUNCO		4	3	1		2			
										Harris's Sparrow									1
										White-throated SPARROW									
30	135	110	76	305	61		152	110	69	HOUSE Sparrow	1048	1926	1523	1009	1059	1305	1427	1020	973
							2			Red-winged Blackbird	2		(1)						
										Rusty Blackbird									(3)
		3								Common Grackle	3								
715	303	293	381	599	168	110	299	209	240	Total Birds - count day	3304	3815	4755	3191	3186	4283	3580	4070	5799
										Total Birds - count period	5	1	1	1				3	

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 only recorded if the species was not seen on count day.

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										MAMMALS									
										Shrew sp		1	1						
										Nuttall's Cottontail							1		
										Snowshoe Hare		T			T	T	1	T	3
		1	3T			4		xT	xT	White-tailed Jackrabbit	5	T	T	2	1	T	T		1
										Red Squirrel		2	2	1			1	2	4
										American Beaver									
									xT	Vole sp	>1T	T							
										Meadow Vole									
										Deer Mouse									D
										Mouse sp						T			T
										House Mouse				1					
							1			Porcupine	1	1							
										Coyote		8	2	2	13	1	10	2	11
		1		2						Red Fox	3			1	2				
										Raccoon									T
										Weasel sp		1					1		
								1		American Mink	1								
							1			American Badger	1							1	
										River otter					1				
										Deer sp						T	T		
			1	4	7		3			Mule Deer	15		11	20	12		11	1	
			1	5			8		xT	White-tailed Deer	14	8	12	65	26	9	15	22	4

T - tracks, D - digging or chewing, x - no count given, () - count period observation

PARTICIPANTS	
1	Marten Stoffel, Marilyn Haskins
2	Janine McManus, Jeff Harder
3	Ron Jensen
4	Guy Wapple, Dale Booth
5	John Patterson, Dave Cook, Louise Cook
6	Bob Godwin, Robert Johanson, Lynn Oliphant FW, Rhonda Shewfelt FW
7	LeeAnn Latremouille
8	Stan Shadick, Jan Shadick
9	Lorne Duczek, Blair McCann
10	Janine McManus, Dawn Hall, Diane Wells, Jeff Harder, Kyla Bas, Heney Klypak FW

FW - Feeder Watcher

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										EFFORT									
8:30	9:10	10:15	9:00	10:06	9:05	9:56	9:12	9:00	9:15	Start Time	8:30								
12:30	13:10	14:35	15:15	14:52	12:58	13:46	14:42	12:00	12:15	End Time	15:15								
0.5	2.8	2.0	1.0	0.5	0.8	3.8	1.0	3.0	3.3	Time on foot	18.6	11.8	13.3	14.3	16.5	14.5	16.7	20.1	20.5
3.5	1.3	2.3	4.0	3.9	3.1		4.5		1.5	Time by Car	24.2	34.2	29.4	26.0	28.0	30.5	28.9	28.4	27.6
					0.5				3.0	Time at Feeder	3.5	18.5	5.5	3.5	13.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0
0.4	3.5	4.0	1.0	0.5	0.4	11.6	1.5	4.0	6.4	Dist by foot/ski	33.3	23.8	15.0	13.5	18.2	26.0	24.6	37.0	21.5
84.0	24.5	56.0	165.0	76.0	52.5		82.0		15.7	Dist by car	555.7	654.0	600.0	507.0	560.0	574.0	515.0	545.0	572.0

										WEATHER									
										Min. Temp. (°C)	-3	-27	1	-5	-30	-12	-8	-25	-17
										Max Temp (°C)	4	-18	4	0	-21	-10	-6	-20	-13
										Min. Wind (kph)	15	5	22	15	4	5	3	4	5
										Max. Wind (kph)	50	11	40	28	11	22	16	15	12
	15	5	5	20	20		20		15	Min Snow Depth (cm)	12	3	0	0		2	10	10	20
	40	25	30	30	20		30			Max Snow Depth (cm)	30	10	15	20	4	15	30	45	50
100	100	100	80	80	100		100	100	100	Cloud cover AM (%)	95	mcr	pcd	pcd	cr	cd	oc	oc	cr
	100	100	100	100	100		100			Cloud cover PM (%)	100	mcr	mcr	cd	mcr	cd	cd	ls	cr

cd - cloudy, mcd - mostly cloudy, pcd - partly cloudy, pcr - partly clear, mcr - mostly clear, cr - clear, oc - overcast, ls - light snow

										HABITAT									
										Evergreen forest									
										Mixedwood forest									
										Deciduous forest					1	1	2	1	
60	10			15	65	25	72			Aspen grove/ farmland	25	20	30	28	20	16	22	21	13
				15	5					Aspen grove/prairie		5	5	4	6	7	6	2	10
				10						Native prairie		5		4	2	3	3	3	2
				10						Tame pasture		5		4	1	2	1	2	
40	20	20	85	20	15				50	Farmland	25	20	20	22	11	18	17	10	22
	30	10	10	30	15					Farmsteads	10	10	15	10	15	23	22	19	24
	40	70				75	10	50		Urban (incl. cottages/landfill)	25	25	20	22	37	25	20	35	28
								50		Open water	5			1	1	1	2	1	1
			5				18		50	Riparian (river bank)	10	10	10	5	6	4	5	6	
										Other (specify)									

										Wild fruit crop	f	p	f	p	f	g	f	g	p
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p - poor, f - fair, g - good, e - excellent