

As with other counts over the last ten months, COVID-19 restrictions dictated that we deviate from our normal practices to keep everyone safe. It was a less social event this year, as the usual get-together at lunch was cancelled and observers travelled in convoy or surveyed smaller areas on their own.

The thirty-five participants in the count enjoyed milder temperatures this year, but experienced higher winds and more snow cover than is typical. At twenty-eight, the species count matched the long-term average.

The Sharp-tailed Grouse count was well above double the 8-year average (127 vs 63). American Crow was reported for only the second time since 2005 and White-throated Sparrow was reported for the first time since 2008. House Sparrows were particularly abundant this year, with an all-time high count of 803. All of the woodpecker species were above their long-term average, except for Northern Flicker which has gone unreported for the fourth year in a row.

No fewer than three Great Horned Owls have been seen each year since 2007, but this year only a lone individual was reported. The Black-billed Magpie count at 105 was the lowest since 2007, and only 65% of the long-term average. The count for Red-breasted Nuthatch (13) was at the high end of their normal abundance, while for White-breasted Nuthatch (16) it was at the low end.

Thank you to all participants for your contributions to the count. We invite you to do it again next year.

Donna Bruce, Organizer

John Patterson, Compiler

2020 Pike Lake Christmas Bird and Mammal Count - Jan 2, 2021

E	NC	NE	NW	Park	SE	SW	SECTOR	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
13	17	13	13	18	16	17	Total Species - count day	27	29	22	26	33	33	28	25	30
							Total Species - count period	1	2	1	1				1	
5.0	5.3	3.8	6.2	7.8	7.3	6.0	Party Hours	41.3	40.9	44.9	40.1	43.9	59.7	43.3	40.0	66.5
1	5	6	3	10	6	4	Participants	35	40	30	20	22	33	27	37	41
							BIRDS									
							Canada GOOSE									
							MALLARD									
							Common GOLDENEYE		4				2			3
5							Gray PARTRIDGE	5	20					16	36	11
1							Ruffed GROUSE	1	(1)	1	4	1	1			3
7		8	32	36	5	39	SHARP-TAILED Grouse	127	51	52	87	73	80	31	95	33
11	1	3	55	4	4	58	Rock PIGEON	136	186	136	137	111	116	81	118	89
							EURASIAN COLLARED Dove									
							Sharp-shinned HAWK					1	1			
							Northern GOSHAWK	(1)			1			1	1	
							Bald EAGLE		3	3			3		1	2
							ROUGH-LEGGED Hawk									
				1			Owl species	1								
	1						Great Horned OWL	1	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	5
							SNOWY Owl				2		2	1	2	
							Northern Saw-whet Owl		1							
2	6	3	1	12	1	6	Downy WOODPECKER	31	29	28	25	47	46	25	40	32
2	4	1	2	5	2	10	HAIRY Woodpecker	26	22	19	11	28	27	29	34	26
	3			1			PILEATED Woodpecker	4	1	5	(1)	2	2	6	2	
							Northern FLICKER					4	1	1	(1)	1
				1			Falcon species	1								
							MERLIN				1	1				
							Gyrfalcon		1				1			
						1	Northern SHRIKE	1	1	(1)	2	2	2	1		1
	8	4		8	3		Blue JAY	23	20	28	13	19	32	44	27	25
5	20	19	14	7	19	21	Black-billed MAGPIE	105	137	144	225	207	201	116	219	157
				2			American CROW	2	2							
13	8	22	11	8	7	19	Common RAVEN	88	96	69	114	68	124	55	98	80
							Horned Lark		4							
29	71	28	40	89	30	110	Black-capped CHICKADEE	397	317	409	428	498	515	467	522	522
		1	2	7	2	1	Red-breasted NUTHATCH	13	10	12	2	12	4	1	6	5
	1	2	1	9	1	2	WHITE-BREASTED Nuthatch	16	25	25	16	17	28	16	15	19
							Brown CREEPER									
							Golden-crowned KINGLET									
							American ROBIN		2			1	12	1	47	
1			20				European STARLING	21	5	125	22	91	3	12		

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	76	67	40	16	1	29	Bohemian WAXWING	229	227	10	12	1265	1011	286	664	101
							CEDAR Waxwing					6	2		26	
							Evening GROSBEAK					1		1	1	2
10	26			33	12	23	PINE Grosbeak	104	32		94		287	101	8	522
							House FINCH			1	27	1	5			5
							PURPLE Finch					1		1		
	8		4		1	1	Common REDPOLL	14	5	97	294	22	720	35		683
							HOARY Redpoll				12	1	5			12
							Red CROSSBILL		11			2				
						4	WHITE-WINGED Crossbill	4		10		66	6			2
							Pine SISKIN				4	6	1			2
	1						American GOLDFINCH	1				10				
16	5	500			38	15	Snow BUNTING	574	742	157	700	111	283	310	510	568
	1			5	1		Dark-eyed JUNCO	7	1	2		1	1	7		
						2	White-throated SPARROW	2	(1)							
							Rusty Blackbird				3					
174	40	20	80	18	77	394	HOUSE Sparrow	803	585	330	327	183	372	431	405	290
276	280	678	302	262	204	735	Total Birds - count day	2737	2543	1667	2566	2863	3899	2082	2882	3204
							Total Birds - count period	1	2	1	1				1	

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

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E	NC	NE	NW	Park	SE	SW	SECTOR	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
							MAMMALS									
	1	xT			xT		Snowshoe Hare	1	T	5	T	7	T	T	T	T
		xT	xT	1T		xT	White-tailed Jackrabbit	>4T	1	12	T	T	T	T	T	T
	2			3,2T	1		Red Squirrel	6	15	45	12	8	14	2	8	17
							American Beaver		(1)							
				1,1T			Vole sp	1	T		T	T				
							Meadow Vole					T				
							Mouse sp		T		T	T	T	T		T
							Deer Mouse							1	1	
							Porcupine			T				2		1
		xT	xT				Coyote	>2T	2	3	7	6	1	2		5
				1T		1	Red Fox	1		1	T	1		1		
							Weasel sp			T	T		T	T		
							Long-tailed Weasel								T	1
							Deer sp						T	T		
3				7			Mule Deer	10	12	6	6	4	2			4
6	8	10,xT,1M	7	5T	5	12,xT	White-tailed Deer	48	10	8	36	12	6	9	18	9
1							Moose	1	T			T	T		T	

T - tracks, M - carcass, x - no count given, () - count period observation

PARTICIPANTS	
E	Lorne Duczek
NC	Ron Jensen , Guy Wapple , Denice Bezopenko FW , Stephan Stuglin FW , Lubicia Stuglin FW
NE	Bill MacKenzie , Audrey MacKenzie , David Cook , Louise Cook , Shirley Humphries FW , Greg Lawrence FW
NW	Dawn Hall , Marc Sabourin , Annette Ward FW
Park	Donna Bruce , Robert Johanson , Blair McCann , Sara Bryson, Erin Lang , Allyson Brownbridge FW , Judy Howsam FW , Murray Morgan FW , Dalice Abraham FW , Max Abraham FW
SE	Bob Godwin , Kathy Meeres , Nancy Young , Dwight Young , Jordie Dahlen , Corlene Dahlen
SW	Greg Hutchings, Stan Shadick , Jan Shadick , Irene Howe FW

FW - Feeder Watcher

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E	NC	NE	NW	Park	SE	SW	SECTOR	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
							EFFORT									
9:40	9:30	9:15	9:10	9:10	9:39	9:00	Start Time	9:00								
14:40	14:45	13:00	15:20	14:10	16:32	15:00	End Time	16:32								
3.0	1.5	1.0	1.0	7.1	4.5		Time on foot	18.1	26.3	23.7	18.3	19.8	28.8	20.3	15.5	41.5
2.0	3.8	2.8	5.2	0.8	2.8	6.0	Time by Car	23.2	14.6	21.2	21.8	24.1	30.9	23.0	24.5	25.0
	6.0	7.0	2.5	14.0			Time at Feeder	29.5	8.5	3.0	10.0	2.0	4.0	1.0		
3.0	3.0	1.0	1.5	10.1	4.2		Dist by foot/ski	22.8	30.1	23.0	27.0	17.8	28.2	176.0	22.5	45.2
67.0	33.0	38.0	38.0	13.5	39.5	140.0	Dist by car	369	389	393	383	426	408	374	494	473

							WEATHER									
							Min. Wind (kph)	17	12	10	0	2	0	0	15	13
							Max. Wind (kph)	35	22	24	32	9	20	39	26	33
							Min. Temp. (°C)	-3	-7	-7	-14	-37	-13	-36	-28	-11
							Max Temp (°C)	3	2	0	-9	-21	-2	-19	-25	-6
10	60	15	15	20	20		Min Snow Depth (cm)	23	3	2	0	10	2	5	15	10
30	70	30	20	35	30		Max Snow Depth (cm)	36	10	15	20	15	20	35	45	40
60	50		100	90			Cloud cover AM (%)	75	pcd	pcd	cr	mcr	cr	pcd	mcr	mcr
	50			20			Cloud cover PM (%)	35	mcr	cd	cr	cr	cr	mcr	mcr	mcr

cd - cloudy, mcd - mostly cloudy, pcd - partly cloudy, pcr - partly clear, mcr - mostly clear, cr - clear

							HABITAT									
							Evergreen forest									
							Mixedwood forest									
10	5			13			Deciduous forest	5	5	10						
	10	17		1			Aspen grove/ farmland	5	5	45						
	10	10		13	20		Aspen grove/prairie	10	5	5						
	5						Native prairie									
						40	Tame pasture	5	5							
80		65	90		25	40	Farmland	40	40	20						
10	10	2	10		50	20	Farmsteads	15	20	15						
	55	3		73			Urban (incl. cottages/landfill)	20	15	5						
							Open water									
	5	3			5		Riparian (river bank)		5							
							Other (specify)									

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