

With Covid-19 still prevalent, teams were small and worked individually or in convoy. Coming at the end of a long stretch of extremely cold days, the wind and cold on count day appeared to discourage the birds as well as a few potential participants, and there was little incentive to linger to the end of the day.

The species count at 24, was the second lowest in the last 20 years. The 32 participants on the count this year found that some species often present, were notable by their absence. There were no owls, no flickers for the 5th year in a row, no Red-breasted Nuthatch, no robins and no crossbills.

The species present were found in average numbers at best. Two exceptions were Snow Bunting (1064) and Common Redpoll (542), both more than 100% above their long-term average. These irruptive species were also abundant on the Clark's Crossing and Saskatoon counts.

The abundance of European Starling on this count over the years is a reminder that bird populations are not static. Starling was not observed on the first thirteen Pike Lake counts, then beginning in 1986 it was seen on five of the next ten counts, averaging four birds per count. Compare that to the most recent ten counts when starling was seen on eight of those counts, averaging 34 birds per year. This year 60 were seen.

The Sharp-tailed Grouse tally (28) was the lowest since 2012 and Black-billed Magpie (80) was at its lowest since 1988.

Thank you to all participants in the count. Please join us again next year when the Pike Lake count reaches a milestone – the 50th annual count. Don't miss it!

Donna Bruce, Organizer

John Patterson, Compiler

Pike Lake Bird and Mammal Count - Jan 3, 2022

E	NC	NE	NW	P	SE	SW	Sector	Jan 3 2022	Jan 2 2021	Jan 4 2020	Jan 5 2019	Jan 5 2018	Jan 2 2017	Jan 2 2016	Jan 3 2015	Jan 4 2014	Jan 5 2013	Jan 2 2012	Jan 3 2011	Jan 2 2010	Jan 3 2009	Jan 5 2008
10	17	13	11	14	12	10	Total Species - count day	24	27	29	22	26	33	33	28	25	30	27	26	32	31	28
							Total Species - count period		1	2	1	1				1		1	1			1
5.0	4.8	3.3	3.5	10.8	6.2	4.3	Party Hours	37.7	41.3	40.9	44.9	40.0	43.9	59.7	43.3	40.0	66.5	48.5	43.5	54.5	38.7	60.5
1	9	5	2	9	2	4	Participants	32	35	40	30	20	22	33	27	37	41	46	37	31	29	45

							BIRDS															
							Common Goldeneye			4				2			3					
	3						Ruffed Grouse	3	1	-1	1	4	1	1			3	1	2	4	1	1
		14	6			8	Sharp-tailed Grouse	28	127	51	52	87	73	80	31	95	33	8	88	83	41	86
8							Gray Partridge	8	5	20					16	36	11		4		4	13
	14	58	9	2	8	45	Rock Pigeon	136	136	186	136	137	111	116	81	118	89	76	65	74	46	62
							Mourning Dove											-2	-1			1
							Sharp-shinned Hawk						1	1								
							Northern Goshawk		-1			1			1	1				1		2
						1	Bald Eagle	1		3	3			3		1	2	7	7	1		-2
							Rough-legged Hawk											1				
							Owl sp.		1													
							Great Horned Owl		1	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	5	6	5	4	5	3
							Snowy Owl					2		2	1	2		1				
							Northern Saw-whet Owl			1												
							Woodpecker sp.						2		2							
4	10	2	2	10	1	5	Downy Woodpecker	34	31	29	28	25	47	46	25	40	32	27	27	35	25	21
2	3	2		5	2	4	Hairy Woodpecker	18	26	22	19	11	28	27	29	34	26	22	27	30	15	18
	2						Pileated Woodpecker	2	4	1	5	-1	2	2	6	2		2	2	4	1	7
							Northern Flicker						4	1	1	-1	1		1	6	3	2
							Falcon sp.		1													
							Merlin					1	1									
							Gyr Falcon			1				1								
	1	1					Northern Shrike	2	1	1	-1	2	2	2	1		1	3	6	4	2	1
							Gray Jay													-1		
	2			13	4		Blue Jay	19	23	20	28	13	19	32	44	27	25	28	13	12	24	33
1	10	23	16	4	5	21	Black-billed Magpie	80	105	137	144	225	207	201	116	219	157	144	227	131	150	101
	1						American Crow	1	2	2												
11	15	8	21	9	7	18	Common Raven	89	88	96	69	114	68	124	55	98	80	174	85	71	38	77
36	81	40	36	102	25	147	Black-capped Chickadee	467	397	317	409	428	498	515	467	522	522	425	401	552	499	281
							Horned Lark			4											5	2
							Red-breasted Nuthatch		13	10	12	2	12	4	1	6	5	3	2	22	3	7
	8	4	1	5			White-breasted Nuthatch	18	16	25	25	16	17	28	16	15	19	8	21	18	17	15
							Brown Creeper													1		
			60				European Starling	60	21	5	125	22	91	3	12			822	28	21	14	

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							Townsend's Solitaire								1						1	
							American Robin			2			1	12	1	47		10		74	123	
	5	35	18	223			Bohemian Waxwing	281	229	227	10	12	1265	1011	286	664	101	205	88	101	37	174
							Cedar Waxwing						6	2		26	1		13	12		
170	17	12	76	3	18	27	House Sparrow	323	803	585	330	327	183	372	431	405	290	376	386	587	660	429
				1			Evening Grosbeak	1					1		1	1	2		11	2	6	1
10	3			8	1		Pine Grosbeak	22	104	32		94		287	101	8	522	131		5	42	66
							House Finch				1	27	1	5			5	4		3	41	
							Purple Finch						1		1					5	7	
50	80	28	18	87	78	201	Common Redpoll	542	14	5	97	294	22	720	35		683	591	72	69	35	373
				4	2		Hoary Redpoll	6				12	1	5			12	7	19			11
							Red Crossbill			11			2									
							White-winged Crossbill		4		10		66	6			2			12		1
							Pine Siskin					4	6	1			2			3		2
							American Goldfinch		1				10									
60		5			999		Snow Bunting	1064	574	742	157	700	111	283	310	510	568	878	271	1728	698	493
	2						Dark-eyed Junco	2	7	1	2		1	1	7			7			1	
							Harris's Sparrow									1						
							White-throated Sparrow		2	-1											2	
							Western Meadowlark										1					
							Rusty Blackbird					3							4	2	1	
							Brewer's Blackbird									1						
							Common Grackle										1					
352	257	232	263	476	1150	477	Total Birds - count day	3207	2737	2543	1667	2566	2865	3899	2082	2882	3204	3967	1875	3677	2547	2283
							Total Birds - count period		1	2	1	1				1		2	1	1		2

- a minus sign indicates a count period observation (Dec 14 - Jan 5) . These are recorded only if the species was not seen on count day.

Pike Lake Bird and Mammal Count - Jan 3, 2022

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							MAMMALS															
xT	2T						Snowshoe Hare	T	1	T	5	T	7	T	T	T	T					
xT			1	1T		xT	White-tailed Jackrabbit	1	T	1	12	T	T	T	T	T	T					
				1	1		American Red Squirrel	2	6	15	45	12	8	14	2	8	17					
							American Beaver			-1												
							Deer Mouse								1	1						
	2T						Vole sp.	T	1	T		T	T									
							Meadow Vole						T									
							Mouse sp.			T		T	T	T	T		T					
							Porcupine				T				2		1					
2							Coyote	2	T	2	3	7	6	1	2		5					
				1T			Red Fox	T	1		1	T	1		1							
							Weasel sp.				T	T		T	T							
							Long-tailed Weasel									T	1					
				3T			Deer sp.	T						T	T							
xT				1T		xT	Mule Deer	T	10	12	6	6	4	2			4					
	2	4 xT		8 2T	7	xT	White-tailed Deer	21	48	10	8	36	12	6	9	18	9					
	1T			3			Moose	3	1	T			T	T		T						

T - tracks, M - carcass, x - no count given, minus sign - count period observation

		PARTICIPANTS
E	Lorne Duczek	
NC	Ron Jensen, Rob Pagnin, Ljubica Stuglin FW, Stephan Stuglin FW, Edward Shirley FW 18, Elliott Shirley FW 18, Ian Shirley FW, Marilyn Shirley FW, Guy Wapple	
NE	Bill MacKenzie, Audrey MacKenzie, Louise Cook, David Cook, Judy Haraldson FW	
NW	John Patterson, Marc Sabourin	
P	Donna Bruce, Allyson Brownbridge FW, Irene Howe FW, Bob Howe FW, Murray Morgan, Bev Schmidt, Michelle Bue FW, Gordon Bue FW, Karen MacEwan FW	
SE	Bob Godwin, Kathy Meeres	
SW	Greg Hutchings, Stan Shadick, Jan Shadick, El Dormuth	

FW - Feeder Watcher 18 - Youth

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							EFFORT															
9:40	9:15	9:15	9:35	7:30	10:05	9:30	Start Time	7:30	9:00													
14:40	14:00	12:30	13:05	16:30	16:00	14:00	End Time	16:30	16:32													
3.0	1.0	0.8	2.0	7.0	0.7	2.3	Time on foot	16.7	18.1	26.3	23.7	18.3	19.8	28.8	20.3	15.5	41.5	25.0	19.8	27.3	13.7	30.5
2.0	3.8	2.5	1.5	3.8	5.5	2.0	Time by Car	21.0	23.2	14.6	21.2	21.8	24.1	30.9	23.0	24.5	25.0	23.5	23.8	27.3	25.0	30.0
	14.5			11.0			Time at Feeder	25.5	29.5	8.5	3.0	10.0	2.0	4.0	1.0			13.0	5.0	6.5		
3.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	11.5	0.6		Dist by foot/ski	21.1	22.8	30.1	23.0	27.0	17.8	28.2	176.0	22.5	45.2					
73.0	38.0	43.0	27.0	19.0	78.0	75.0	Dist by car	353	304	389	393	383	426	408	374	494	473					

							WEATHER															
							Min. Wind (kph)	20	17	12	10	0	2	0	0	15	13					
							Max. Wind (kph)	30	35	22	24	32	9	20	39	26	33					
							Min. Temp. (°C)	-21	-3	-7	-7	-14	-37	-13	-36	-28	-11					
							Max Temp (°C)	-20	3	2	0	-9	-21	-2	-19	-25	-6					
	25	20	15	4	15		Min Snow Depth (cm)	4	23	3	2	0	10	2	5	15	10					
25	35	30	20	10	15		Max Snow Depth (cm)	35	36	10	15	20	15	20	35	45	40					
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Cloud cover AM (%)	ov	cd	pcd	pcd	cr	mcr	cr	pcd	mcr	mcr					
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Cloud cover PM (%)	ov	pcd	mcr	cd	cr	cr	cr	mcr	mcr	mcr					

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

							HABITAT															
							Evergreen forest															
							Mixedwood forest															
10				15			Deciduous forest	5	5	5	10											
	25	12		15	20		Aspen grove/ farmland	10	5	5	45											
	25	10					Aspen grove/prairie	5	10	5	5											
							Native prairie															
						40	Tame pasture	5	5	5												
80		70	70		25	40	Farmland	35	40	40	20											
10		2	30		50	20	Farmsteads	15	15	20	15											
	50	3		70			Urban (incl. cottages/landfill)	25	20	15	5											
							Open water															
		3			5		Riparian (river bank)			5												
							Other (specify)															

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