

Still waiting for the start of winter, 19 participants were faced with unusual conditions: above-zero temperatures and an absence of snow cover. The species count at 31 was average, but the conditions especially affected the abundance and diversity of waterfowl.

The Canada Goose count was almost ten times the long-term average (LTA, 2034 vs 212), the Mallard count was more than 20 times the LTA (89 vs 4) and the Common Goldeneye count was five times the LTA (213 vs 41). For comparison, the combined counts for the previous four years were seven Canada Geese, four Mallards and 193 Common Goldeneye. Lots of open water and easy access to waste grain in the bare fields accounts for the dramatic change this year. Cackling Geese were seen for just the second time on the count, Bufflehead were seen for the first time and Common Merganser for the fourth time.

Seven Bald Eagles were recorded, the second highest in the history of the count. Being so mobile, it's always possible that there was double-counting as some may have flown from one sector to another. The White-breasted Nuthatch count at ten, was a new high for the species.

House Finch were present in good numbers (375% of the LTA), but the winter finches (Pine Grosbeak, White-winged and Red Crossbill, Common and Hoary Redpoll, Purple Finch and Pine Siskin) were all below average or absent entirely.

Thank you to all participants in the count. Please join us again next year for the 34th annual Clark's Crossing count.

LeeAnn Latremouille, Organizer

John Patterson, Compiler

Note: all counts above have been corrected for effort, unless otherwise noted, so results from different years are comparable.
Corrected count = Raw count X Average party hours for all years ÷ Party hours.

1-W	2-NW	3-War	4-N	5-NE	6-SE	7a-Mar	7b-Mar	8-S	9-Sil	10-C	Sector	12/16 2023	12/17 2022	12/18 2021	12/19 2020	12/21 2019	12/15 2018	12/16 2017	12/17 2016	12/19 2015	12/20 2014	12/14 2013	12/15 2012	12/17 2011
14	9	17	13	15	10	14	10	16	11	14.0	Total Species - count day	31	30	27	29	26	30	36	29	34	26	28	32	28
											Total Species - count period			2	4	1	1					1		
5.0	1.3	9.1	5.0	5.8	1.9	1.0	2.2	5.5	3.0	4.0	Party Hours	43.7	39.9	54.4	42.8	46.0	42.7	40.3	44.5	45.0	45.6	48.5	48.1	45.0
2	3	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	Participants	19	29	28	25	31	29	24	25	20	18	22	28	24

											BIRDS														
				2				10			Cackling Goose	12													
6		67	122	453	400	6	3	931	80	195	Canada Goose	2063		-25	1	6	483	35	544	92	24	1		75	
								300			Duck sp.	300													
								90	2	1	Mallard	90		5			2		1				4	2	
			28								Bufflehead	28													
			8	41				14	128	25	Common Goldeneye	216	38	12	69	77	242	26	1	58			9	2	
										2	Common Merganser	2					3								
1			2	29		1		1		1	Sharp-tailed Grouse	35	34	68	87	65	48	4	36	34	52	96	5	38	
15			12	27		15		9			Gray Partridge	78	194	32	1	58	94	84	39	29	57	4	92	23	
60	110	21	15	9	2	5	10	36	55	34	Rock Pigeon (feral)	357	131	437	87	372	61	282	182	368	381	158	269	341	
	1										Eurasian Collared-Dove	1	16	3	16	2				1		1			
											Mourning Dove							1		1					
											Hawk sp.										1				
						1			1		Sharp-shinned Hawk	2				-1		2	1				1	1	
											American Goshawk			1	-1								2		
			2	2				3			Bald Eagle	7	1	-1	5		2	2	3	8		2		4	
											Red-tailed Hawk											1			
											Rough-legged Hawk								1						
					1			1			Snowy Owl	2	2	2	-1	5	2	2	1	2	1	5	5	3	
		1		2							Great Horned Owl	3	2	5	1	5	4	3	5	9	1	4	6	5	
											Northern Hawk Owl				-1										
											Short-eared Owl													2	
											Woodpecker sp.		3											1	
1	3	3			2				1		Downy Woodpecker	10	14	21	7	15	17	15	15	1	1	18	26	6	
2	2	1			1		1	2		1	Hairy Woodpecker	10	15	1	9	15	15	1	14	7	8	11	8	1	
											Pileated Woodpecker		1									1			
		1									Northern Flicker	1					1	1		2			1	3	
		1									Merlin	1	2		2	1	1	3			2	1	2		
											Gyrfalcon									1					
											Northern Shrike		1				2	2			1	1	1		
1	2	4				2	2				Blue Jay	11	3	1	12	25	17	17	9	4	5	6	2	1	
9	6	20	17	17	18	4	19	22	2	14	Black-billed Magpie	148	295	241	262	4	255	272	312	221	318	219	315	41	

Clark's Crossing Bird and Mammal Count - Dec 16, 2023

1-W	2-NW	3-War	4-N	5-NE	6-SE	7a-Mar	7b-Mar	8-S	9-Sil	10-C	Sector	12/16 2023	12/17 2022	12/18 2021	12/19 2020	12/21 2019	12/15 2018	12/16 2017	12/17 2016	12/19 2015	12/20 2014	12/14 2013	12/15 2012	12/17 2011	
											American Crow		1		1				1						
60		5	16	8	2	15	6	4		12	Common Raven	128	166	232	161	344	243	171	221	191	429	37	313	218	
11	3	34		5	22	15	14	6	30	18	Black-capped Chickadee	158	13	137	146	184	196	166	21	136	137	29	176	148	
											Horned Lark						3								
											Golden-crowned Kinglet											1	2		
		3				1			1		Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	19	5	14	13	17	11	32	3	1	1	49	3	
2		4				1			1	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	10	3	3	2	1	7	8		3	3	2			
											Brown Creeper					2		1	2					3	
					35						European Starling	35	29	41	97	18	16	33	85	183	165	1	21	115	
											Townsend's Solitaire			1						1	1			1	
											Varied Thrush			1				1							
											American Robin				3	2	7	1		1	1	35	1	1	
		1	20	12		15	1	12		7	Bohemian Waxwing	68	77	4	55	36		34	188	67	188	11	725		
											Cedar Waxwing											3			
95	140	277	18	200	32	30	304	46	157	25	House Sparrow	1324	148	1974	148	1926	1523	19	159	135	1427	12	973	1221	
1								1			Pine Grosbeak	2			1			34		21	2		94	3	
3		106				20	23				House Finch	152	64	78	192	85	91	144	117	52	118	71	42	2	
											Purple Finch		2								7				
	1	16	5	51	44					20	Common Redpoll	137	3	1129	24		121	121	6	555	32		1896	46	
											Hoary Redpoll			6				2		5			11	5	
											Red Crossbill										21				
											White-winged Crossbill				27			5	34		31			34	
											Pine Siskin		12		-3	7	15	7	4						
											American Goldfinch							2	1				1		
			52								Snow Bunting	52	53	653	87	57	571	58	1	24		1646	479		
											Dark-eyed Junco			1		4	3	1			2				
											Harris's Sparrow											1			
											Red-winged Blackbird		1		2		-1								
											Rusty Blackbird		1										-3		1
											Common Grackle				3										
267	268	565	317	893	524	131	383	1488	458	357	Total Birds - count day	5448	1344	5094	1522	3329	4062	1571	2036	2276	3357	2378	5568	2313	
											Total Birds - count period			26	6	1	1					3			

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

1-W	2-NW	3-War	4-N	5-NE	6-SE	7a-Mar	7b-Mar	8-S	9-Sil	10-C	Sector	12/16 2023	12/17 2022	12/18 2021	12/19 2020	12/21 2019	12/15 2018	12/16 2017	12/17 2016	12/19 2015	12/20 2014	12/14 2013	12/15 2012	12/17 2011
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												MAMMALS														
												Shrew sp.					1	1								
												Nuttall's Cottontail											1			
												Snowshoe Hare					T			T	T	1				
					2	2						White-tailed Jackrabbit	4	3	2	5	T	T	2	1	T	T				
												American Red Squirrel			T		2	2	1				1			
												Vole sp.			T	T	T									
			1									Meadow Vole	1													
												Mouse sp.			T							T				
												House Mouse							1							
												Porcupine		2		1	1									
			2	2	1	3		1		3		Coyote	12	1	1		8	2	2	13	1	1				
												Red Fox		3	1	3			1	2						
					1							Ermine	1													
			2									Weasel sp.			T		1						1			
												Long-tailed Weasel	2													
												Mink				1										
												American Badger				1										
												River Otter								1						
												Deer sp.										T	T			
					1					2		Mule Deer	3	6	15	15		11	2	12		11				
			2		1			2		1		White-tailed Deer	6	2	35	14	8	12	65	26	9	15				
												Moose		C												

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

		PARTICIPANTS
1-W	Marten Stoffel, Marilyn Haskins	
2-NW	LeeAnn Latremouille, Kiel Drake, Brian McGill FW	
3-War	Ron Jensen, Shelly Fisher	
4-N	Jake Buhler, Wilfred Buhler, Bruce Boldt	
5-NE	Dawn Hall	
6-SE	Sarah Bradley, Sydney Worthy	
7a-Mar	Marten Stoffel, Marilyn Haskins	
7b-Mar	LeeAnn Latremouille, Kiel Drake	
8-S	Stan Shadick, Jan Shadick	
9-Sil	Lorne Duczek, Brandon Finke	
10-C	Diane Wells, Jim Wells	

1-W	2-NW	3-War	4-N	5-NE	6-SE	7a-Mar	7b-Mar	8-S	9-Sil	10-C	Sector	12/16 2023	12/17 2022	12/18 2021	12/19 2020	12/21 2019	12/15 2018	12/16 2017	12/17 2016	12/19 2015	12/20 2014	12/14 2013	12/15 2012	12/17 2011
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												EFFORT												
8:30	13:27	9:25	10:00	9:00	10:15	13:30	10:30	8:15	9:00	9:10	Start Time	8:15	8:45	8:30	8:30	8:30	8:30							
13:30	14:43	15:00	16:00	14:45	12:11	14:30	13:13	13:45	12:00	14:10	End Time	16:00	16:15	15:30	15:15	16:02	17:15							
	0.3	7.0	1.3	0.5	0.2		1.4	1.0	3.0	1.3	Time on foot (hr)	16.0	11.2	24.5	18.6	11.8	13.3	14.3	16.5	14.5	16.7	20.1	20.5	17.4
5.0	0.9	2.1	3.8	5.3	1.8	1.0	0.8	4.5		2.7	Time by Car (hr)	27.8	28.7	29.8	24.2	34.2	29.4	26.0	28.0	30.5	28.9	28.4	27.6	27.6
	2.0				0.7						Time at Feeder (hr)	2.7	7.5	3.0	3.5	18.5	5.5	3.5	13.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	2.0
	0.5	7.0	1.3		0.1		6.6	2.0	4.0	2.5	Dist by foot/ski (km)	23.9	26.4	29.1	33.3	23.8	15.0	13.5	18.2	26.0	24.6			
97.0	19.0	42.0	62.0	91.0	34.9	5.0	4.5	118.0		37.3	Dist by car (km)	511	574	584	556	654	600	507	560	574	515			

												WEATHER												
											Min. Wind (kph)	14	25	7	15	5	22	15	4	5	3			
											Max. Wind (kph)	24	34	19	50	11	40	28	11	22	16			
											Wind direction	NE												
											Min. Temp. (°C)	-7	-21	-26	-3	-27	1	-5	-30	-12	-8			
											Max Temp (°C)	4	-19	-18	4	-18	4	-7	-21	-10	-6			
--	--					--					Min Snow Depth (cm)	0	3	1	12	3	0	0	0	2	10			
--	--					--			--		Max Snow Depth (cm)	0	50	25	30	10	15	20	4	15	30			
--	--	100	100	100	100	--	100	90	95	100	Cloud cover AM (%)	ov	ov	pcd	cd	mcr	pcd	pcd	cr	cd	oc			
--	--	5			90	--	10	20	--	20	Cloud cover PM (%)	pcr	ov	mcd	cd	mcr	mcr	cd	mcr	cd	cd			

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

												HABITAT												
											Evergreen forest													
			5								Mixedwood forest													
			10					5			Deciduous forest								1	1	2			
70			5	15	40	50		19			Aspen grove/ farmland	15	20	30	25	20	30	28	20	16	22			
			15	15	20		18	15			Aspen grove/prairie	10	5			5	5	4	6	7	6			
			3	10				1			Native prairie					5		4	2	3	3			
			2	10	10						Tame pasture		5	5		5		4	1	2	1			
	39	25	50	20	10			20		40	Farmland	25	30	15	25	20	20	22	11	18	17			
	25	5	5	30							Farmsteads	5	10	10	10	10	15	10	15	23	22			
30	36	70			20	50	82	20	50	10	Urban (incl. cottages/landfill)	35	20	35	25	25	20	22	37	25	20			
											Open water				5			1	1	1	2			
			5					20	50	50	Riparian (river bank)	10	10	5	10	10	10	5	6	4	5			
											Other (specify)													