

The weather was mild, and the snow cover negligible for the 51<sup>st</sup> edition of the Pike Lake bird and mammal count. At lunch several of the 27 participants noted that birds overall seemed less abundant than normal, and this was in fact the case. The species count of 27 beat the long average (LTA) by three, but the total count was 19% below the LTA.

The low overall count can be explained by the counts for the three species that have historically been the most abundant. These are Bohemian Waxwing (1% of LTA), Snow Bunting (2% of LTA) and Common Redpoll (14% of LTA). For Bohemian Waxwing and Snow Bunting these were the lowest counts since 1975 and 1987 respectively. The abundance of all three species is highly variable depending on the availability of food and clearly this year they were finding food elsewhere.

Canada Geese were recorded for the first time in the history of the count. They are particularly abundant in the Saskatoon area this winter thanks to bare fields and ready access to waste grain. American Goldfinch had not been observed prior to 2017 but was found this year for the third time in eight years.

The Pileated Woodpecker count (520% of LTA) was the highest ever, as was the count for White-breasted Nuthatch (378% of LTA). Downy Woodpecker count (171% of LTA) was the third highest. Rock Pigeon (310% of LTA) and House Sparrow (194% of LTA) continue to flourish. Their counts were the third and fourth highest respectively since 1968.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Pike Lake count. We hope you will join us again next year.

Donna Bruce, 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.

E	NC	NE	NW	P	SE	SW	Sector	Dec30 2023	Jan 2 2023	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
15	19	13	10	12	14	13	Total Species - count day	27	29	24	27	29	22	26	33	33	28	25	30	27	26	32	31
							Total Species - count period		1		1	2	1	1			1		1	1	1	1	
5.8	7.6	3.4	3.8	6.3	7.2	4.2	Party Hours	38.2	40.7	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
2	9	4	2	7	4	3	Participants	27	32	32	35	40	30	20	22	33	27	37	41	46	37	31	29

							BIRDS																	
	168						Canada Goose	168																
							Common Goldeneye					4				2				3				
							Merganser sp.																	
							Ruffed Grouse		6	3	1	-1	1	4	1	1				3	1	2	4	1
1	17				21	9	Sharp-tailed Grouse	48	55	28	127	51	52	87	73	80	31	95	33	8	88	83	41	
							Gray Partridge		61	8	5	20					16	36	11		4		4	
6		15	9		48	86	Rock Pigeon (feral)	164	256	136	136	186	136	137	111	116	81	118	89	76	65	74	46	
							Mourning Dove														-2	-1		
							American Coot																	
							Black-legged Kittiwake																	
							Hawk sp.		1															
							Sharp-shinned Hawk								1	1								
							American Goshawk		1		-1			1			1	1				1		
	2						Bald Eagle	2	2	1		3	3			3		1	2	7	7	1		
							Rough-legged Hawk														1			
							Owl sp.				1													
							Snowy Owl							2		2	1	2			1			
	1				1		Great Horned Owl	2			1	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	5	6	5	4	5	
							Northern Saw-whet Owl					1												
		3		2			Woodpecker sp.	5	1						2		2							
	18	1	3	13	3	3	Downy Woodpecker	41	56	34	31	29	28	25	47	46	25	40	32	27	27	35	25	
	9	3	1	5	1	2	Hairy Woodpecker	21	32	18	26	22	19	11	28	27	29	34	26	22	27	30	15	
	2	1	1	2			Pileated Woodpecker	6	5	2	4	1	5	-1	2	2	6	2		2	2	4	1	
							Northern Flicker								4	1	1	-1	1		1	6	3	
							Falcon sp.				1													
							Merlin							1	1									
							Gyr Falcon					1				1								
		2					Northern Shrike	2	1	2	1	1	-1	2	2	2	1		1	3	6	4	2	
							Canada Jay															-1		
	9	2		8	2	2	Blue Jay	23	19	19	23	20	28	13	19	32	44	27	25	28	13	12	24	
25	18	14	17	9	15	56	Black-billed Magpie	154	172	80	105	137	144	225	207	201	116	219	157	144	227	131	150	
							American Crow		2	1	2	2												
22	36	10	3	8	7	15	Common Raven	101	95	89	88	96	69	114	68	124	55	98	80	174	85	71	38	

Pike Lake Bird and Mammal Count - Dec 30, 2023

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18	100	24	46	98	20	57	Black-capped Chickadee	363	490	467	397	317	409	428	498	515	467	522	522	425	401	552	499
							Horned Lark		2			4											5
							Nuthatch sp.																
1	1						Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	19		13	10	12	2	12	4	1	6	5	3	2	22	3
1	10	9	1	12	1	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	36	31	18	16	25	25	16	17	28	16	15	19	8	21	18	17
							Brown Creeper															1	
						20	European Starling	20	12	60	21	5	125	22	91	3	12			822	28	21	14
							Townsend's Solitaire										1						1
1	1						American Robin	2	15			2			1	12	1	47		10		74	123
7	1						Bohemian Waxwing	8	514	281	229	227	10	12	1265	1011	286	664	101	205	88	101	37
							Cedar Waxwing		-2						6	2		26	1		13	12	
35	52		133	11	97	347	House Sparrow	675	568	323	803	585	330	327	183	372	431	405	290	376	386	587	660
							Evening Grosbeak			1					1		1	1	2		11	2	6
13	20	22		60	5		Pine Grosbeak	120	1	22	104	32		94		287	101	8	522	131		5	42
2							House Finch	2	2				1	27	1	5			5	4		3	41
							Purple Finch		1						1		1					5	7
16	8		3	1	22	11	Common Redpoll	61		542	14	5	97	294	22	720	35		683	591	72	69	35
					2		Hoary Redpoll	2		6					12	1	5		12	7	19		
							Red Crossbill		3			11			2								
							White-winged Crossbill				4		10		66	6			2			12	
		2		1			Pine Siskin	3	1					4	6	1			2			3	
	1						American Goldfinch	1			1				10								
4		2				1	Snow Bunting	7	50	1064	574	742	157	700	111	283	310	510	568	878	271	1728	698
							Dark-eyed Junco		9	2	7	1	2		1	1	7			7			1
							Harris's Sparrow											1					
							White-throated Sparrow				2	-1											2
							Western Meadowlark												1				
4							Blackbird sp.	4															
							Rusty Blackbird							3							4	2	1
							Brewer's Blackbird											1					
							Common Grackle												1				
156	474	110	217	230	245	611	Total Birds - count day	2043	2483	3207	2737	2543	1667	2566	2865	3899	2082	2882	3204	3967	1875	3677	2547
							Total Birds - count period		2		1	2	1	1				1		2	1	1	

- 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.

E	NC	NE	NW	P	SE	SW	Sector	Dec30 2023	Jan 2 2023	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
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							MAMMALS																	
							Shrew sp.																	
							Nuttall's Cottontail																	
							Snowshoe Hare		T	T	1	T	5	T	7	T	T	T	T					
							White-tailed Jackrabbit		1	1	T	1	12	T	T	T	T	T	T					
							Franklin's Ground Squirrel																	
							Eastern Grey Squirrel																	
							Eastern Fox Squirrel																	
	5			12	3	1	American Red Squirrel	21	24	2	6	15	45	12	8	14	2	8	17					
							American Beaver					-1												
							Deer Mouse										1	1						
							Muskrat																	
							Vole sp.			T	1	T		T	T									
							Meadow Vole								T									
							Mouse sp.					T		T	T	T	T			T				
							House Mouse																	
						1Chew	Porcupine	1CH	2				T				2		1					
1 xT							Coyote	1	3	2	T	2	3	7	6	1	2		5					
							Red Fox		1	T	1		1	T	1		1							
							American Marten																	
							Ermine																	
							Raccoon																	
							Weasel sp.		T				T	T		T	T							
							Long-tailed Weasel											T	1					
							Least Weasel																	
							Mink																	
							American Badger		1															
							River Otter																	
							Striped Skunk																	
							Deer sp.		1	T						T	T							
	1					9	Mule Deer	10	17	T	10	12	6	6	4	2			4					
xT		XT					White-tailed Deer	T	34	21	48	10	8	36	12	6	9	18	9					
							American Elk																	
1				1	2		Moose	4	2	3	1	T			T	T		T						

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

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**PARTICIPANTS**

E	Joe Monahan, Larry McGuire																					
NC	Ron Jensen, Jeff Jensen, Marilyn Leuty FW, Nick Saunders, Joe Stookey FW, Ljubica Stuglin FW, Stephan Stuglin FW, Guy Wapple, Denise Bezopenko FW																					
NE	Diane Wells, Jim Wells, Bert Weichel FW, Judy Haraldson FW																					
NW	John Patterson, Marc Sabourin																					
P	Donna Bruce, Robert Johanson, Irene Howe FW, Bob Howe FW, Judy Howsam FW, Max Abraham FW, Dalice Abraham FW																					
SE	Bob Godwin, Kathy Meeres, Nancy Young, Dwight Young																					
SW	Greg Hutchings, El Dormuth, LeeAnn Latremouille																					

FW - Feeder Watcher 18 - Youth

**EFFORT**

10:00	9:10	10:00	9:45	8:55	9:05	9:00	Start Time	8:55	9:00	7:30	9:00												
16:30	16:15	14:10	14:30	16:00	16:44	14:00	End Time	16:44	16:48	16:30	16:32												
3.0	2.9	0.8	2.0	5.5	3.0	2.3	Time on foot (hr)	19.4	18.8	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
2.8	4.7	2.7	1.8	0.9	4.2	1.9	Time by Car (hr)	18.8	21.9	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
0.3	2.5			20.0			Time at Feeder (hr)	22.8	20.0	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	2.8	1.5	10.4	6	1	Dist by foot/ski (km)	27.7	25.4	21.1	22.8	30.1	23.0	27.0	17.8	28.2	176.0	22.5	45.2				
70.0	35.0	32.0	54.0	14.5	88.0	73.0	Dist by car (km)	366.5	294	353	304	389	393	383	426	408	374	494	473				

**WEATHER**

							Min. Wind (kph)	5	5	20	17	12	10	0	2	0	0	15	13				
							Max. Wind (kph)	18	18	30	35	22	24	32	9	20	39	26	33				
							Wind direction	NNE															
							Min. Temp. (°C)	-14	-17	-21	-3	-7	-7	-14	-37	-13	-36	-28	-11				
							Max Temp (°C)	0	0	-20	3	2	0	-9	-21	-2	-19	-25	-6				
	1	--					Min Snow Depth (cm)	1	35	4	23	3	2	0	10	2	5	15	10				
	1	--					Max Snow Depth (cm)	1	63	35	36	10	15	20	15	20	35	45	40				
	50	--	10		10		Cloud cover AM (%)	mcr	1	ov	cd	pcd	pcd	cr	mcr	cr	pcd	mcr	mcr				
	10	--					Cloud cover PM (%)	mcr	3	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

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							HABITAT																	
							Evergreen forest																	
							Mixedwood forest																	
10			5	15	5		Deciduous forest	5	10	5	5	5	10											
10		80	25	5			Aspen grove/ farmland	15	10	10	5	5	45											
10				10	5		Aspen grove/prairie	5	10	5	10	5	5											
							Native prairie																	
					2	40	Tame pasture	15	5	5	5	5												
60			35		37	40	Farmland	35	30	35	40	40	20											
10			35		46	20	Farmsteads	10	10	15	15	20	15											
		10			70		Urban (incl. cottages/landfill)	15	15	25	20	15	5											
							Open water																	
		10			5		Riparian (river bank)					5												
							Other (specify)		10															