

Thirty-one participants braved a bitterly cold day to record 21 species, well below the average of 27. Species that are present most years but not seen this year include Great Horned Owl, Northern Shrike, Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak, House Finch and Pine Siskin.

Gamebirds were exceptionally abundant this year. Sharp-tailed Grouse count was almost double the previous high and five times the long-term average (LTA, 365 vs 74). The count of Gray Partridge was also a new high and was six times the LTA (78 vs 13).

Common feeder birds were seen in good numbers. Black-capped Chickadee count was 164% of the LTA and Downy Woodpecker count was 192% of the LTA. The unloved House Sparrow was an exception at 50% of the LTA. The Breeding Bird Survey has noted that House Sparrow is in a long-term decline.

Blue Jays were noticeably absent with a new low count (5), only 17% of the LTA, but after a seven-year absence there were four Northern Flicker (500% of LTA). Rusty Blackbird had been seen only once in the last 13 years but was seen again this year.

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	Jan 4 2025	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	Jan 5 2008
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12	12	14	9	10	7	13	Total Species - count day	21	27	29	24	27	29	22	25	32	32	28	25	29	26	25	32	31	27
							Total Species - count period			1		1	2	1	1				1		1	1	1		1
5.6	5.0	2.7	2.0	5.1	4.2	5.3	Party Hours	29.8	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	60.5
2	8	6	2	7	2	2	Participants	29	27	32	32	35	40	30	20	22	33	27	37	41	46	37	31	29	45

							BIRDS																		
							Canada Goose		168																
							Common Goldeneye					4				2				3					
							Merganser sp.																		
		1					Ruffed Grouse	1		6	3	1	-1	1	4	1	1			3	1	2	4	1	1
63	30	7	4	28		194	Sharp-tailed Grouse	326	48	55	28	127	51	52	87	73	80	31	95	33	8	88	83	41	86
		20	9		32	9	Gray Partridge	70		61	8	5	20					16	36	11		4		4	13
17					2	31	Rock Pigeon (feral)	50	164	256	136	136	186	136	137	111	116	81	118	89	76	65	74	46	62
							Mourning Dove														-2	-1			1
							American Coot																		
							Black-legged Kittiwake																		
							Hawk sp.			1															
							Sharp-shinned Hawk									1	1								
							American Goshawk			1		-1			1			1	1				1		2
1							Bald Eagle	1	2	2	1		3	3			3		1	2	7	7	1		-2
							Rough-legged Hawk														1				
							Owl sp.					1													
							Snowy Owl								2		2	1	2						
							Great Horned Owl		2			1	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	5	6	5	4	5	3
							Northern Saw-whet Owl						1												
							Woodpecker sp.		5	1						2		2							
1	15	10	1	8		6	Downy Woodpecker	41	41	56	34	31	29	28	25	47	46	25	40	32	27	27	35	25	21
1	9	6	1	4	1	4	Hairy Woodpecker	26	21	32	18	26	22	19	11	28	27	29	34	26	22	27	30	15	18
		2	1				Pileated Woodpecker	3	6	5	2	4	1	5	-1	2	2	6	2		2	2	4	1	7
		4					Northern Flicker	4								4	1	1	-1	1		1	6	3	2
							Falcon sp.					1													
							Merlin								1	1									
							Gyrfalcon						1				1								
							Northern Shrike		2	1	2	1	1	-1	2	2	2	1		1	3	6	4	2	1
							Canada Jay																-1		
		2		2			Blue Jay	4	23	19	19	23	20	28	13	19	32	44	27	25	28	13	12	24	33
9	20	11	11	1	25	64	Black-billed Magpie	141	154	172	80	105	137	144	225	207	201	116	219	157	144	227	131	150	101
							American Crow			2	1	2	2												

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3	5	6	1	15	12	16	Common Raven	58	101	95	89	88	96	69	114	68	124	55	98	80	174	85	71	38	77
83	58	19	32	94		92	Black-capped Chickadee	378	363	490	467	397	317	409	428	498	515	467	522	522	425	401	552	499	281
							Horned Lark			2			4											5	2
							Nuthatch sp.																		
1		1		2		2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	2	19		13	10	12	2	12	4	1	6	5	3	2	22	3	7
	5	3	3	5			White-breasted Nuthatch	16	36	31	18	16	25	25	16	17	28	16	15	19	8	21	18	17	15
							Brown Creeper																1		
							European Starling		20	12	60	21	5	125	22	91	3	12			822	28	21	14	
							Townsend's Solitaire											1						1	
							American Robin		2	15			2			1	12	1	47		10		74	123	
							Bohemian Waxwing		8	514	281	229	227	10	12	1265	1011	286	664	101	205	88	101	37	174
							Cedar Waxwing			-2						6	2		26	1		13	12		
20	1	2	5		12	110	House Sparrow	150	675	568	323	803	585	330	327	183	372	431	405	290	376	386	587	660	429
							Evening Grosbeak				1					1		1	1	2		11	2	6	1
							Pine Grosbeak		120	1	22	104	32		94		287	101	8	522	131		5	42	66
							House Finch		2	2				1	27	1	5			5	4		3	41	
							Purple Finch			1						1		1					5	7	
4	1					3	Redpoll	8	63		548	14	5	97	306	23	725	35		695	598	91	69	35	384
							Red Crossbill			3			11			2									
				8		3	White-winged Crossbill	11				4		10		66	6			2			12		1
							Pine Siskin		3	1					4	6	1			2			3		2
							American Goldfinch		1			1				10									
63		500			6		Snow Bunting	569	7	50	1064	574	742	157	700	111	283	310	510	568	878	271	1728	698	493
	1						Dark-eyed Junco	1		9	2	7	1	2		1	1	7			7			1	
							Harris's Sparrow											1							
							White-throated Sparrow					2	-1											2	
							Western Meadowlark													1					
							Blackbird sp.		4																
						1	Rusty Blackbird	1							3							4	2	1	
							Brewer's Blackbird												1						
							Common Grackle													1					
266	151	589	67	167	90	535	Total Birds - count day	1865	2043	2483	3207	2737	2543	1667	2566	2865	3899	2082	2882	3204	3967	1875	3677	2547	2283
							Total Birds - count period			2		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.

E	NC	NE	NW	P	SE	SW	Sector	Jan 4 2025	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	Jan 5 2008
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							MAMMALS																		
						xT	Shrew sp.	1T																	
	5T	2T			xT		Snowshoe Hare	8T		T	T	1	T	5	T	7	T	T	T	T					
						10T	White-tailed Jackrabbit	10T		1	1	T	1	12	T	T	T	T	T	T					
							Eastern Fox Squirrel																		
	2	5			3 xT	2T	American Red Squirrel	10	21	24	2	6	15	45	12	8	14	2	8	17					
						xT	Northern Flying Squirrel	1T																	
							American Beaver						-1												
						xT	Deer Mouse	1T											1	1					
							Vole sp.				T	1	T		T	T									
							Meadow Vole									T									
							Mouse sp.						T		T	T	T	T	T			T			
		2 1T					Porcupine	2	1CH	2				T					2		1				
1	3	3 1T			2	xT	Coyote	9	1	3	2	T	2	3	7	6	1	2		5					
	2T				1		Red Fox	1		1	T	1		1	T	1		1							
						xT	Weasel sp.	1T		T				T	T		T	T							
							Long-tailed Weasel													T	1				
							American Badger			1															
		10T					Deer sp.	10T		1	T						T	T							
					5	1	Mule Deer	6	10	17	T	10	12	6	6	4	2				4				
9	11	8 1T		2 1T	12	xT	White-tailed Deer	42	T	34	21	48	10	8	36	12	6	9	18	9					
							American Elk																		
	1T	2 T				xT	Moose	4T	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, Dale Booth, Ryan Dudragne, Leif Friggstad FW, Marilyn Leuty FW, Stephen Stuglin FW, Leb Stuglin FW, Guy Wapple
NE	LeeAnn Latremouille, Kiel Drake, Henda Olson FW, Bert Weichel FW, Jude Haraldson FW, Shirley Humphries FW
NW	John Patterson, Marc Sabourin
P	Donna Bruce, Irene Howe FW, Rob Howe FW, Max Abraham FW, Dalice Abraham FW, Robert Johanson, David Twomey
SE	Greg Fenty, Jennifer Fenty
SW	Greg Hutchings, Phil Taylor

FW - Feeder Watcher 18 - Youth

EFFORT

10:45	9:30	10:30	10:49	9:35	9:50	8:45	Start Time	8:45	8:55	9:00	7:30	9:00													
16:20	15:30	16:02	13:45	16:10	15:20	15:00	End Time	16:20	16:44	16:48	16:30	16:32													
1.5	2.3	0.6	0.8	3.2	1.0	2.3	Time on foot (hr)	10.7	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	30.5
4.1	2.7	2.2	1.2	1.9	4.2	3.0	Time by Car (hr)	19.2	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	30.0
0.4	6.0	6.1		6.0			Time at Feeder (hr)	18.5	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	2.5	0.5	0.5	7.3	1.2	2.0	Dist by foot/ski (km)	15.0	27.7	25.4	21.1	22.8	30.1	23.0	27.0	17.8	28.2	176.0	22.5	45.2					
90.0	47.0	35.5	27.0	20.8	82.0	106.0	Dist by car (km)	408.3	366.5	294	353	304	389	393	383	426	408	374	494	473					

WEATHER

							Min. Wind (kph)	8	5	5	20	17	12	10	0	2	0	0	15	13					
							Max. Wind (kph)	21	18	18	30	35	22	24	32	9	20	39	26	33					
							Wind direction	E	NNE																
							Min. Temp. (°C)	-33	-14	-17	-21	-3	-7	-7	-14	-37	-13	-36	-28	-11					
							Max Temp (°C)	-25	0	0	-20	3	2	0	-9	-21	-2	-19	-25	-6					
30	30	--	--	33	--	--	Min Snow Depth (cm)	30	1	35	4	23	3	2	0	10	2	5	15	10					
--	30	--	--	50	--	50	Max Snow Depth (cm)	50	1	63	35	36	10	15	20	15	20	35	45	40					
--	50	--	--	50	--		Cloud cover AM (%)	pcd	mcr	1	ov	cd	pcd	pcd	cr	mcr	cr	pcd	mcr	mcr					
--	25	--	--	75	--		Cloud cover PM (%)	pcd	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																			
	25						Mixedwood forest	10																		
				15			Deciduous forest	5	5	10	5	5	5	10												
	25	10	35				Aspen grove/ farmland	15	15	10	10	5	5	45												
				5			Aspen grove/prairie		5	10	5	10	5	5												
	25						Native prairie	10																		
							Tame pasture		15	5	5	5	5													
	25	13	35				Farmland	15	35	30	35	40	40	20												
			30				Farmsteads	5	10	10	15	15	20	15												
		75		80			Urban (incl. cottages/landfill)	40	15	15	25	20	15	5												
							Open water																			
		2					Riparian (river bank)						5													
							Other (specify)			10																

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