



June 25, 2013

2013 SPRING BIRD AND FLOWER COUNT

Fellow Birders and Flower Watchers:

The main highlight for 2013 was the weather; the count day high was 21° C and the breeze was relatively calm (only reaching up to 20 km/hr). Overall, there were 130 species of birds observed, which matched the average number of species observed over the past 5 years.

32% of the individual species had greater numbers compared to their past two years, 28% stayed on par, and 32% of recorded individual species declined in numbers compared to the past 2 years.

The Semipalmated Sandpiper, Common Redpoll, Herring Gull, Townsend's Solitaire, Grey-cheeked Thrush, and Western Tanager all made big comebacks after missing for 8, 15, 5, 14, 8, and 10 years.

There were 9 species with recorded high counts in 2013, and only 2 with recorded low counts (see Table 1 below). Some species missing from this year's count that are usually observed were the Eared Grebe, Cooper's Hawk, Common Tern, American Avocet, and Warbling Vireo.

The top five species for 2012 were: European Starling (793), Canada Goose (615), American Robin (555), Red-winged Blackbird (438), and House Sparrow (432).

As for flowers in bloom, there were 52 species observed, which is 13 species less than last year's count, but still 2.4 species greater than the average past 5 years.

The number of participants increased from the previous 2 years and distances driven and covered on foot were comparable to previous years (see Table 2 below). A big thanks to all those who volunteered their time this year!

Sincerely,

Kathleen

Kathleen Hilsden
Count Compiler

2013 Spring Bird Count – Highs and Lows			
Species	High	Previous High	Year
Prairie falcon	34	6	2010, 2002
Eurasian collared dove	23	13	2010
Semipalmated sandpiper	28	15	1996
Northern flicker	85	85	1995
Blue jay	26	18	2009
Red-eyed vireo	14	11	1999
Savannah sparrow	73	55	2008
Red cross-bill	20	6	1994
Common redpoll	3	2	1998
Species	Low	Previous Low	Year
American coot	4	5	2005
Killdeer	16	26	2011

Table 1. 2013 Spring Bird Count All Time High and Low Observations

Table 2. Data Summary: 2009 - 2013

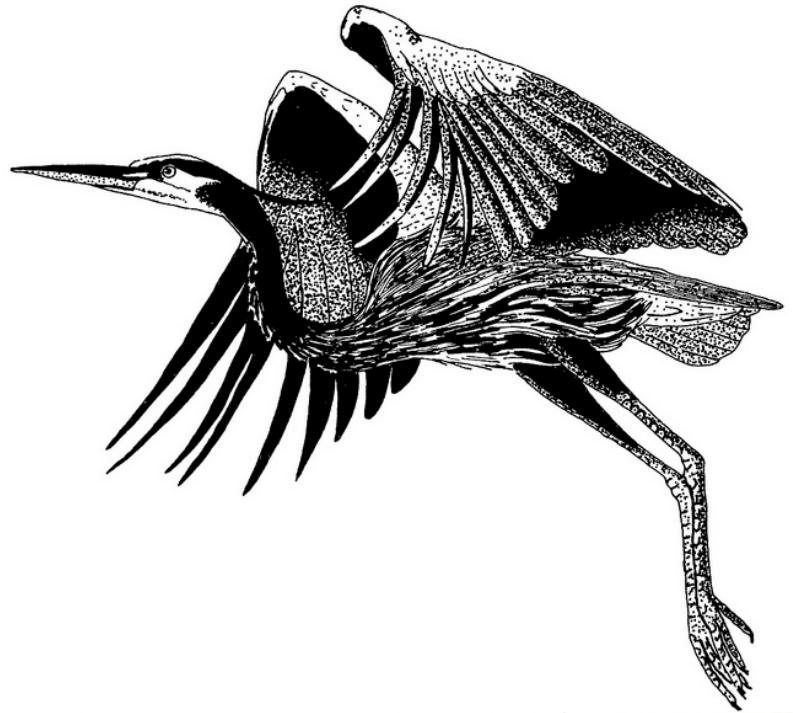
DATA SUMMARY 2009 - 2013					
	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Total Individuals	7,453	7,740	7,801	13,123	10,297
Total Bird Species	130	113	126	139	127
Total Flower Species	52	65	46	53	32
Participants	32	26	32	35	25
Total Km Walked	75	69.5	71	86	76
Total Km Driven	149	415	215	294.5	236
Hours of Observation	81	69.75	62.75	86	86.25
on foot:	59.25	32.25	39.25	52.5	50.5
by car:	21	37.5	23.5	33.5	35.75
feeder:	0	5	6	4	2

Wildflowers in Bloom 2013 (52 species)

- Prairie Onion (*Allium textile*)
 - Star-flowered Soloman's-seal
(*Maianthemum stellatum*)
 - Willow Species (*Salix sp.*)
 - Pale Comandra (Bastard Toadflax)
(*Comandra umbellata*)
 - Yellow Umbrella-plant
(*Eriogonum flavum*)
 - Wild Mustard (*Brassica kaber*)
 - Western Wallflower (Prairie Rocket)
(*Erysimum asperum*)
 - Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
 - Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum*)
 - Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
 - Three-flowered Avens
(*Geum triflorum*)
 - Silverweed (*Argentina anserina*)
 - Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
 - Common Wild Rose (*Rosa woodsii*)
 - Two-grooved Milk Vetch
(*Astragalus bisulcatus*)
 - Purple Milk Vetch
(*Astragalus dasyglottis*)
 - Low milk vetch (*Astragalus lotiflorus*)
 - Narrow-leaved Milk Vetch
(*Astragalus pectinatus*)
 - Common Caragana
(*Caragana arborescens*)
 - Silvery Perennial Lupine
(*Lupinus sericeus*)
 - Early Yellow Locoweed
(*Oxytropis sericea*)
 - Golden Bean (*Thermopsis rhombifolia*)
 - Wild Vetch (*Vicia Americana*)
 - Wild Blue Flax (*Linum lewisii*)
 - Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
 - Skunk-bush (*Rhus trilobata*)
 - Scarlet mallow (*Sphaeralcea occinea*)
 - Pincushion Cactus
(*Corypantha vivipara*)
 - Prickly-pear Cactus
(*Opuntia polyacantha*)
 - Silverberry (Wolf Willow)
(*Elaeagnus commutata*)
 - Hairy-fruited Wild (Prairie) Parsley
(*Lomatium foeniculaceum*)
 - Red-osier Dogwood
(*Cornus stolonifera*)
 - Moss Phlox (*Phlox hoodii*)
 - Narrow-leaved Puccoon
(*Lithospermum incisum*)
 - Stoneseed (*Lithospermum ruderales*)
 - White Beard-tongue
(*Penstemon albidus*)
 - Smooth Blue Beard-tongue
(*Penstemon nitidus*)
 - Tartarian Honeysuckle
(*Lonicera tatarica*)
 - Common Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)
 - Low Everlasting (Pussy-toes)
(*Antennaria aprica*)
 - Tuffed (low) fleabane
(*Erigeron caespitosus*)
 - Colorado Rubberplant
(*Hymenoxys richardsonii*)
 - Common Dandelion
(*Taraxacum officinale*)
 - Yellow Goat's-beard
(*Tragopogon dubius*)
- Others observed**
(Not in taxonomic order):
- Clustered oreocarya
(*Cryptantha celosioides*)
 - Blue eyed grass
(*Sisyrinchium montanum*)
 - Northern bedstraw (*Galium boreale*)
 - Wild mint (*Mentha arvensis*)
 - Meadow zizia (*Zizia aptera*)
 - Stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*)
 - White honeysuckle
(*Lonicera albiflora*)
 - Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)

Participants:

Mark Schiebelbein
Ben Verner
Mike Verner
Rick Carrier
Mike O'Shea
Dave Mackenzie
Martha Munz Gue
Milt Spitzer
Elaine Spitzer
Donna Steele
Sue Higgins
Barry Anderson
Judy Anderson
Jim Marshall
Jo-Anne Reynolds
Judy Morris
Rob Gardner
Corlaine Gardner
Ray Gaudet
David Parbery
Julie Tingley
Valerie Martins
Marina Anaenostakos
Cam Lockerbie
Jim Knelson
Bob Colley
John Slater
Angela Slater
Jim Black
Darlene Black
Dakota Buck
Kathleen Hilsden



Species	May 26, 2013	May 27, 2012	May 28, 2011	May 30, 2010	May 24, 2009
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	1	1	-
Horned Grebe	-	1	2	5	-
Eared Grebe	-	2	46	6	15
Western Grebe	1	3	-	2	3
White Pelican	58	66	79	110	144
Double-crested Cormorant	8	-	-	12	16
Great Blue Heron	47	40	22	108	143
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	1
Canada Goose	615	313	543	930	596
Wood Duck	2	7	2	2	3
Green-winged Teal	-	10	8	11 <i>high</i>	-
Mallard	248	303	238	457 <i>high</i>	205
Northern Pintail	16	42	49	93	22
Blue-winged Teal	27	105	62	148	81
Cinnamon Teal	4	6	10 <i>high</i>	9	6
Northern Shoveler	37	85	144	154	78
Gadwall	42	18	35	97	176 <i>high</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	1	6 <i>high</i>
American Wigeon	35	11	26	54 <i>high</i>	16
Canvasback	9	47	26	26	20
Redhead	7	3	13	11	18
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	4	-	-
Greater Scaup	2	-	-	5	2
Lesser Scaup	24	27	9	68	19
Common Goldeneye	10	12	2	20	16
Common Merganser	18	12	4 <i>low</i>	24	9
Bufflehead	2	12	-	5	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	5	1	11
Turkey Vulture	12	1	5	23 <i>high</i>	22
Osprey	-	1	-	-	3
Bald Eagle	6	1	5	5	7 <i>high</i>
Northern Harrier	1	3	6	3	12
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	2	1	-
Cooper's Hawk	-	1	2	2	1
Broad-winged Hawk	-	-	-	1	1
Swainson's Hawk	20	16	13	27	20
Red-tailed Hawk	11	7	7	8	19 <i>high</i>
Ferruginous Hawk	2	1	1	-	-
Rough-legged Hawk	-	1	-	-	1

Species	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Golden Eagle	-	2	-	-	-
American Kestrel	9	5 <i>low</i>	11	13	14
Merlin	4	4	5	10	7
Prairie Falcon	34 <i>high</i>	1	1	6	4
Gray Partridge	14	8	2	8	12
Ring-necked Pheasant	77	55	35	62	87
Sharp-tailed Grouse	2	-	3	-	-
Yellow Rail	-	-	1 NEW!	-	-
Sora	1	3	4	5	6
American Coot	4 <i>low</i>	9	34	20	54
Killdeer	16 <i>low</i>	39	26	27	26
Black-necked Stilt	-	-	-	1	-
American Avocet	2	4	5	24	2
Solitary Sandpiper	-	-	4	1	-
Willet	16	2 <i>low</i>	4	11	11
Spotted Sandpiper	20	28	5 <i>low</i>	35	31
Semipalmated Sandpiper	28 <i>high</i>	-	-	-	-
Long-billed Curlew	3	8	3	16	8
Marbled Godwit	36	6 <i>low</i>	16	68 <i>high</i>	18
Baird's Sandpiper	-	-	-	1 NEW!	-
Wilson's Snipe	8	22	17	10	15
Wilson's Phalarope	10	57 <i>high</i>	8	35	28
Red-necked Phalarope	-	-	-	2 NEW!	-
Franklin's Gull	44	200	9	1,006 <i>high</i>	213
Ring-billed Gull	174	842	88	862	350
California Gull	44	164	15	158	64
"White-headed Gulls"	10	12	3	16	-
Herring Gull	4	-	-	-	-
Common Tern	-	10	-	3	16
Caspian Tern	2	-	1	-	-
Black Tern	-	-	-	2	-
Rock Pigeon	219	486	233	488	383
Mourning Dove	214	109	97	156	299
Eurasian-collared Dove	23 <i>high</i>	7	13	11	7
Great Horned Owl	5	3	3	4	10
Short-eared Owl	-	-	1	-	-
Common Nighthawk	-	-	-	1	-
Belted Kingfisher	3	6	1	4	6
Sapsucker Species	-	-	-	1	-

Species	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Downy Woodpecker	14	12	30 <i>high</i>	16	24
Hairy Woodpecker	2	3	3	4	1
Northern Flicker	85 <i>high</i>	33	47	82	48
Pileated Woodpecker	1	3 <i>high</i>	1	2	-
Western Wood Pewee	5	2	-	3	7
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	-	-	2	-
Least Flycatcher	40	44	139 <i>high</i>	89	57
Empidonax Species	-	-	1	18	-
Eastern Phoebe	1	-	-	1	1
Say's Phoebe	1	2	-	2	2
Western Kingbird	58	55	11	75	98
Eastern Kingbird	73	24	28	125	92
Horned Lark	13	1 <i>low</i>	26	44	16
Tree Swallow	113	80	82	173	305 <i>high</i>
Violet-green Swallow	17	28	13	61 <i>high</i>	36
N. Roughed-winged Swallow	20	4	8	6	9
Bank Swallow	25	97	46	57	46
Cliff Swallow	33	3 <i>low</i>	105	215	68
Barn Swallow	26	43	94	39	35
Swallow Species	-	10	-	-	-
Blue Jay	26 <i>high</i>	6	7	11	18
Black-billed Magpie	243	148	89 <i>low</i>	236	196
American Crow	87	71	68	69	110
Common Raven	2	-	-	9 <i>high</i>	-
Black-capped Chickadee	32	39	72 <i>high</i>	71	56
Red-breasted Nuthatch	18	13	14	22	22
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	-	3	3
Rock Wren	13	4	9	31 <i>high</i>	2
House Wren	180	102	195	136	256
Marsh Wren	1	-	2	2	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	-	1	-	-
Veery	4	-	3	2	-
Townsend's Solitaire	1	-	-	-	-
Grey-cheeked Thrush	2	-	-	-	-
Swainson's Thrush	18	4	18	19	23
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	11	-
American Robin	555	628	732	918 <i>high</i>	894
Gray Catbird	19	23	49	81	54
Brown Thrasher	26	6 <i>low</i>	19	29	62
Sprague's Pipit	4	1	7	10	10

Cedar Waxwing	36	10	4	26	-
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Species	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Loggerhead Shrike	-	3	-	1	-
European Starling	793	562	1,048	1,171	878
Warbling Vireo	-	20	7	9	21
Red-eyed Vireo	14 <i>high</i>	-	2	8	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	7	6	2
Tennessee Warbler	2	-	11	7	3
Yellow Warbler	327	215	417	270	377
Magnolia Warbler	-	CW	-	-	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4	-	2	1	6
Blackpoll Warbler	-	-	7	1	17
Ovenbird	2	-	3	-	-
American Redstart	-	2	-	5	1
MacGillivray's Warbler	-	3	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	8	7 <i>low</i>	9	13	19
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	1	2
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	1	3	2	1
Warbler Species	-	-	4	-	-
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	-	2	3	1
Black-headed Grosbeak	-	-	1 <i>high</i>	-	-
Lazuli Bunting	1	2	1	5	1
Western Tanager	1	-	-	-	-
Spotted Towhee	12	18	15	32	61
American Tree Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-
Chipping Sparrow	165	15	149	151	82
Clay-coloured Sparrow	87	23	107	83	168 <i>high</i>
Brewer's Sparrow	-	-	-	3	-
Vesper Sparrow	74	55	22	58	117
Lark Sparrow	24	13	15	35	80
Lark Bunting	4	7	-	-	1
Savannah Sparrow	73 <i>high</i>	20	53	24	40
Grasshopper Sparrow	2	-	-	-	3
Baird's Sparrow	1	-	1	2	3
Song Sparrow	16	2	2	9	15
White-throated Sparrow	9	-	1	1	-
White-crowned Sparrow	3	-	7	1	-
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	-	-	-	1
Harris's Sparrow	4	-	-	-	-
Sparrow Species	-	40	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	2	-	-	-	2

Chestnut-collared Longspur	3	-	2	3	-
Bobolink	-	-	-	1	-
Species	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Red-winged Blackbird	438	505	378	648	634
Western Meadowlark	184	257	217	219	368
Yellow-headed Blackbird	56	55	111	160	123
Brewer's Blackbird	159	335	252	409	268
Common Grackle	214	310	344	337	323
Brown-headed Cowbird	49	80	128	146	178
Baltimore Oriole	34	35	35	61	25
Red Crossbill	20 <i>high</i>	1	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	3	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	13	1	-	10	-
American Goldfinch	26	45	98	83	46
House Finch	74	53	61	91	22
Purple Finch	1	-	5 <i>high</i>	-	-
House Sparrow	432	307	312	856	482
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	7,453	7,740	7,801	13,123	10,297
TOTAL SPECIES	130	113	126	139	127