



MH Interpretive Program

managed by Grasslands Naturalists
based in Police Point Park

2022 MEDICINE HAT SPRING BIRD AND FLOWER COUNT **Sunday, May 29**

Fellow Birders and Flower Watchers:

The 38th Spring Count had relatively seasonal temperatures (high 24° C, low 7° C), light winds (N-NE, 3-16 km/hr) and a partly cloudy sky. With this nice weather, we saw an average number of species (129), but in fewer quantities compared to the past few years (7,989). The number of birds that were seen on the count day is 12% less than the 5-year average. There are many reasons for this dip in the total numbers, but the main reasons could be attributed to lower water levels, and cooler temperatures leading up to the count day. Bird flu may also have been factor to the lower numbers, but it is hard to determine to what extent. However, there were 4 bird species seen during this count that have never been seen in the past 37 counts. These new species included: the White-winged Scoter, Ruffed Grouse, Red-necked Grebe and the Townsend's Warbler.

Not including the 4 new count species, there were 4 species with an all-time high count: Eurasian-collared Dove (which beat the previous high set last year), Cinnamon Teal, Black-necked Stilt and the Common Redpoll, which tied last year's number (see Table 1). In addition to these high counts, 5 species showed notable upticks in 2022, including: Redhead Ducks, Spotted Sandpipers, Violet-green Swallows, Yellow-heading Blackbird, and Brown-headed Cowbird (Species Table). Two species had all-time lows in 2022, including: the Brown Trasher and the Northern Pintail (see Table 1). This was the first time a Franklin's Gull was not seen during the count since 1986.

Species missing from this year's count that were seen in 2021 include: the Hooded Merganser, Osprey, Franklins Gull, Olive-sided Flycatcher, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Lincoln's Sparrow, and both the White-winged and Red Crossbill.

The Top 10 for 2022 were: European Starling (1,118), American Robin (753), Red-winged Blackbird (493), House (English) Sparrow (457), Common Grackle (387), Yellow Warbler (387), Canada Goose (363), Black-billed Magpie (301), Rock Pigeon (263) and the Brewer's Blackbird (224). This is the seventh year in a row that the invasive European Starling has taken the top spot.

As for flowers, 53 species were observed in bloom, which was the same as last year (see Flower List).

Count effort was good in 2022. Participants, distances covered, and hours of observation were similar to last year (Table 2). Masterpiece Southland Meadows took part

for the third consecutive count. Thank-you to everyone who volunteered their time this year.

Sincerely,
 Ian Langill
 Count Compiler

Table 1. 2022 Spring Bird Count All Time High and Low Observations.

2022 Spring Bird Count - Highs and Lows			
HIGHS			
Species	High	Previous High	Year
Eurasian-collared Dove	159	141	2021
Red-necked Grebe	4	0	-
Cinnamon Teal	17	10	2014 & 2011
White-winged Scoter	1	0	-
Black-necked Stilt	6	2	1997
Ruffed Grouse	2	0	-
Townsend's Warbler	2	0	-
Common Redpoll	4	4	2021
LOWS			
Species	Low	Previous Low	Year
Northern Pintail	4	11	2019 & 2018
Marbled Godwit	1	1	2021
Brown Thrasher	0	5	2003

Table 2. Effort table for the last 5 years

DATA SUMMARY 2018 - 2022					
	May 29 2022	May 30 2021	May 24 2020	May 26 2019	May 27 2018
Total Individuals	7,989	8,629	10,073	8,900	9,955
Total Bird Species	129	119	139	128	129
Total Flower Species	53	53	41	55	65
Participants	51	49	56	40	36
Total Km Walked	114	108.5	99.2	85	102.3
Total Km Driven	523	591	568.5	495	556.5
Total Km Biked	-	8	8	8	5
Hours of Observation	100	104	117	102.5	106.5

PARTICIPANTS

Barry Anderson
Judy Anderson
Hugh Armstrong
Dee Armstrong
Savannah Armstrong
Jim Black
Darlene Black
Eileen Cowtan
Marty Drut
Val Felesky
Linda Fisher
Mae Frank
Robert Frew
Rob Gardner
Corlaine Gardner
Sue Higgins
Pam Hodgkinson
Dale Holmes

Phil Horch
Annalora Horch
Ian Langill
Charmaine Leidal
Cam Lockerbie
Amy Moores
Mark Oxamitny
Grace Porter
Sandi Robertson
Dan Schiebelbein
John Slater
Milt Spitzer
Elaine Spitzer
Donna Steele
Ian Turner
Angela Turner
Eric Vokes
Rob Wapple

Masterpiece Southland Meadows
Gregg Campbell
7 Residents



Wildflowers in Bloom 2022 (53 Species):

- Prairie Onion (*Allium textile*)
- Star-flowered Solomon's-seal
(*Maianthemum stellatum*)
- Willow (*Salix sp.*)
- Yellow umbrella plant (*Eriogonum flavum*)
- Field Chickweed (*Cerastium arvense*)
- Wild Mustard (*Brassica kaber*)
- Shepherd's Purse
(*Capsella bursa-pastoris*)
- Tansy Mustard/Flixweed
(*Descurainia sophia*)
- Western Wallflower (Prairie Rocket)
(*Erysimum asperum*)
- Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
- Pennycress (Stinkweed)
(*Thlaspi arvense*)
- Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum*)
- Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- Three-flowered Avens (*Geum triflorum*)
- Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
- Common Wild Rose (*Rosa woodsii*)
- Ground Plum (*Astragalus crassicaarpus*)
- Purple Milk Vetch
(*Astragalus dasyglottis*)
- Narrow-leaved Milk Vetch
(*Astragalus pectinatus*)
- Common Caragana
(*Caragana arborescens*)
- Annual Lupine (*Lupinus pusillus*)
- White Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*)
- Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus officinalis*)
- Early Yellow Locoweed
(*Oxytropis sericea*)
- Golden (Buffalo) Bean
(*Thermopsis rhombifolia*)
- Wild Vetch (*Vicia americana*)
- Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*)
- Wild Blue Flax (*Linum lewisii*)
- Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
- Early Blue Violet (*Viola adunca*)
- Skunkbush (Fragrant Sumac)
(*Rhus trilobata*)
- Yellow (Nuttall's) Prairie Violet
(*Viola nuttallii*)
- Pincushion cactus
(*Coryphantha vivipara*)
- Prickly-pear Cactus
(*Opuntia polyacantha*)
- Silverberry (Wolf Willow) (*Elaeagnus commutate*)
- Hairy-fruited wild (prairie) parsley
(*Lomatium foeniculaceum*)
- Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)
- Moss Phlox (*Phlox hoodii*)
- Western Blue-burr (*Lappula occidentalis*)
- Narrow-leaved Puccoon
(*Lithospermum incisum*)
- Stoneseed (*Lithospermum rudérale*)
- White Beard-tongue
(*Pentstemon albidus*)
- Smooth Blue Beard-tongue
(*Penstemon nitidus*)
- Tartarian Honeysuckle
(*Lonicera tatarica*)
- Common Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)
- Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
- Low Everlasting (pussy-toes)
(*Antennaria aprica*)
- Colorado Rubberplant
(*Hymenoxys richardsonii*)
- Common Dandelion
(*Taraxacum officinale*)
- Yellow Goat's-beard
(*Tragopogon dubius*)
- Perennial Sow Thistle
(*Sonchus arvensis*)
- Pygmy Flower
(*Androsace septentrionalis*)
- Wild Gooseberry (*Ribes oxycanthoides*)

Species	May 29 2022	May 30 2021	May 24 2020	May 22 2019	May 27 2018
Canada Goose	363	436	978 <i>high</i>	569	713
Wood Duck	-	-	-	1	-
Gadwall	28	21	48	11	15
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	2	-
American Wigeon	19	14	43	6	22
Mallard	179	188	233	178	197
Blue-winged Teal	51	37	46	61	75
Cinnamon Teal	17 <i>high</i>	1	2	2	2
Northern Shoveler	29	41	47	48	44
Northern Pintail	4 <i>low</i>	12	37	11	11
Green-winged Teal	2	-	7	-	2
Canvasback	5	8	14	5	20
Redhead	32	28	26	17	25
Ring-necked Duck	1	-	2	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	1	-	5
Lesser Scaup	2	5	23	8	4
Bufflehead	-	-	5	5	-
White-winged Scoter	1 <i>high</i>	-	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	12	1	10	21	8
Hooded Merganser	-	1	-	-	-
Common Merganser	13	24	26	32	30
Ruddy Duck	-	-	6	-	3
Duck Species	-	-	25	1	-
Gray Partridge	1	4	2	9	22
Ring-necked Pheasant	58	62	96	84	91
Sharp-tailed Grouse		-	-	-	2
Ruffed Grouse	2 <i>high</i>	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	2	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	2	-	1	2	1
Eared Grebe	-	-	43	2	2
Western Grebe	-	-	-	1	-
Red-necked Grebe	4 <i>high</i>	-	-	-	-
White Pelican	51	52	61	29	87
Double-crested Cormorant	8	13	32	13	6
Great Blue Heron	16	37	80	67	72
American Bittern	-	-	1	1	-
Turkey Vulture	14	23	53 <i>high</i>	26	42
Osprey	-	1	4	-	-
Bald Eagle	2	3	6	5	2
Northern Harrier	5	6	10	8	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	-	-	-	-
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	2	5	2
Hawk Species	2	7	5	6	2

Species	May 29 2022	May 30 2021	May 24 2020	May 22 2019	May 27 2018
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1	4 <i>high</i>	-	1
Swainson's Hawk	22	34	40 <i>high</i>	27	22
Red-tailed Hawk	10	24	15	18	15
Ferruginous Hawk	-	-	4	4	5
Golden Eagle	1	2	3	1	1
American Kestrel	5	1 <i>low</i>	8	3	8
Merlin	4	6	8	2	11 <i>high</i>
Prairie Falcon	1	4	4	2	3
Falcon Species	-	-	1	-	-
Sora	3	3	2	2	11
American Coot	16	15	21	5	12
Killdeer	27	27	44	19	25
American Avocet	2	5	25	1	-
Black-necked Stilt	6 <i>high</i>	-	-	-	-
Solitary Sandpiper	-	-	6	-	1
Willet	9	10	14	6	2
Spotted Sandpiper	27	14	18	12	17
Upland Sandpiper	2	1	1	1	-
Long-billed Curlew	12	19	11	15	8
Marbled Godwit	1 <i>low</i>	1 <i>low</i>	10	10	8
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	1
Whimbrel	1	-	-	-	-
"Peeps" Species	-	-	-	-	1
Wilson's Snipe	10	13	12	8	14
Wilson's Phalarope	19	37	11	10	16
Franklin's Gull	-	41	34	134	173
Ring-billed Gull	153	149	142	409	341
California Gull	41	32	63	51	56
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	6
"White-headed Gulls"	38	60	14	44	21
Caspian Tern	1	-	-	5	2
Forster's Tern	1	-	-	-	-
Common Tern	3	5	-	1	1
Tern Species	-	-	-	7	-
Rock Pigeon	263	177	229	350	309
Eurasian-collared Dove	159 <i>high</i>	141	115	60	126
Mourning Dove	133	141	201	159	247
Great Horned Owl	3	3	13	5	2
Eastern Screech-owl	CW ¹	1	-	-	-
Common Nighthawk	1	CW ¹	CW ¹	-	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	-	-	-	1	-
Hummingbird Species	-	-	1	-	-

Species	May 29 2022	May 30 2021	May 24 2020	May 22 2019	May 27 2018
Belted Kingfisher	4	4	6	2	4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	1
Downy Woodpecker	14	21	21	22	12
Hairy Woodpecker	3	2	3	2	4
Northern Flicker	77	94 high	77	66	93
Pileated Woodpecker	-	-	4 high	1	1
Woodpecker Species	-	2	-	-	-
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	1	1	-	-
Western Wood Pewee	2	4	1	2	19
Willow Flycatcher	-	-	3 high	-	-
Alder Flycatcher	1	-	-	-	-
Least Flycatcher	52	58	43	45	75
Empidonax Species	1	1	11	-	6
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	1
Say's Phoebe	1	2	3	1	2
Western Kingbird	38	34	63	39	47
Eastern Kingbird	33	32	38	16	49
Loggerhead Shrike	1	3	1	2	3
Blue-headed Vireo	-	-	1	-	-
Warbling Vireo	8	11	7	5	37
Red-eyed Vireo	3	2	2	-	2
Vireo Species	1	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	26	43 high	30	25	34
Black-billed Magpie	301	400	335	299	300
American Crow	119	108	125	136	170
Common Raven	8	7	10 high	6	3
Horned Lark	2	8	6	2	4
Tree Swallow	50	53	92	71	93
Violet-green Swallow	42	12	72 high	24	34
N. Roughed-winged Swallow	7	7	25	12	11
Bank Swallow	40	- low	52	29	37
Cliff Swallow	23	63	31	71	13
Barn Swallow	35	29	24	30	28
Swallow Species	20	4	1	6	4
Black-capped Chickadee	63	129 high	74	101	107
Red-breasted Nuthatch	24	23	28	30	23
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	3	2	-	-
Rock Wren	10	10	4	2	2
House Wren	179	145	241	173	314 high
Marsh Wren	2	-	1	1	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	1	-	1	-
Mountain Bluebird	-	-	1	-	-

Species	May 29 2022	May 30 2021	May 24 2020	May 22 2019	May 27 2018
Townsend's Solitaire	1	1	1	-	-
Veery	1	1	-	-	-
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	-	2	1	-
Swainson's Thrush	9	17	65	19	4
Hermit Thrush	-	1	1	-	-
American Robin	753	905	796	725	950 high
Thrush Species	-	6	-	-	-
Gray Catbird	47	39	65	55	77
Brown Thrasher	5 low	12	24	20	21
European Starling	1118	1,161	1,150	1,649 high	1,275
Sprague's Pipit	-	-	2	4	2
Cedar Waxwing	16	4	38	7	23
Tennessee Warbler	-	-	6	7	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	8	5	1
Nashville Warbler	-	-	-	1	-
Yellow Warbler	387	382	396	323	444
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6	1	5	8	10
Blackpoll Warbler	3	-	6	9	-
Magnolia Warbler		-	-	CW¹	-
American Redstart	4	-	2	-	1
Ovenbird	-	-	-	CW¹	-
Northern Waterthrush	1	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	24	22	28	15	41
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	1	1
Canada Warbler	-	-	-	CW¹	-
Townsend's Warbler	2 high	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	-	CW¹	1	3
Warbler Species	-	-	-	1	2
Western Tanager	-	-	3	CW¹	-
Spotted Towhee	40	49	40	34	29
Chipping Sparrow	66	71	314	123	85
Clay-coloured Sparrow	57	70	83	73	75
Brewer's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	2
American Tree Sparrow	-	-	4	-	-
Vesper Sparrow	35	75	93	51	53
Lark Sparrow	5	8	9	6	16
Lark Bunting	-	-	-	1	-
Savannah Sparrow	6	3	20	24	29
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	1	-	2
Baird's Sparrow	-	-	2	-	1
Le Conte's Sparrow	-	-	CW¹	-	-
Song Sparrow	12	17	19	7	11
Lincoln's Sparrow		1	2	-	-

Species	May 29 2022	May 30 2021	May 24 2020	May 22 2019	May 27 2018
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	2	2	-
White-crowned Sparrow	13	2	10	2	6
Sparrow Species	20	52	108	-	139
Dark-eyed Junco	6	3	2	-	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	1	5	1	-
Black-headed Grosbeak	-	-	-	2	-
Lazuli Bunting	1	2	9	6	9
Indigo Bunting	-	-	-	-	3
Bobolink	-	-	1	-	1
Red-winged Blackbird	493	398	457	424	465
Western Meadowlark	198	234	366	227	339
Yellow-headed Blackbird	129	94	96	66	84
Brewer's Blackbird	224	211	209	188	123
Rusty Blackbird	5	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	387	576 <i>high</i>	476	323	418
Brown-headed Cowbird	107	66	79	76	70
Baltimore Oriole	24	20	41	16	47
Blackbird Species	20	20	-	-	-
House Finch	146	225	104	125	89
Red Crossbill	-	15	-	-	-
White-winged Crossbill	-	15 <i>high</i>	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	4 <i>high</i>	4 <i>high</i>	-	1	2
Pine Siskin	1	6	4	1	-
American Goldfinch	61	65	54	28	89
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	2	-	-
Finch Species	-	18	-	-	-
House Sparrow	457	445	375	411	402
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	7,989	8,629	10,073	8,900	9,955
TOTAL SPECIES (Identified)	129	119	139	128	129
Unidentified Species	7	9	8	6	7

¹CW indicates species seen during count week but not on count day