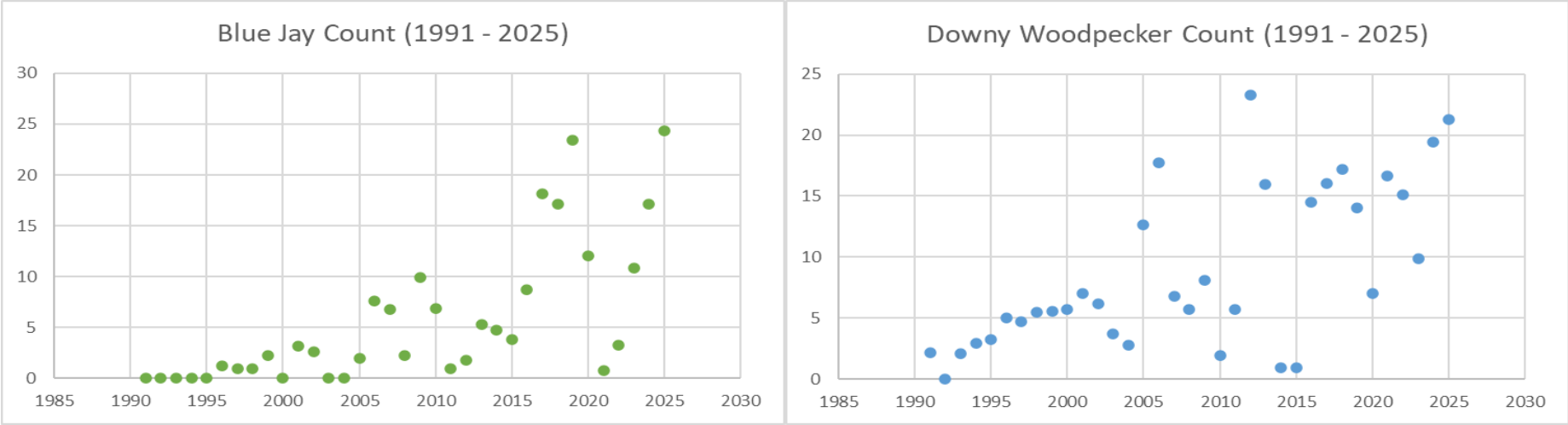


On December 20th, 18 participants in the 35th Clark’s Crossing Christmas bird and mammal count braved the coldest count day in recent years. Blowing and drifting snow overnight reduced visible tracks and made it difficult to estimate snow depth. The species count was average at 27.

Gamebird numbers couldn’t match last year’s explosion, but Gray Partridge (408% of LTA) and Sharp-tailed Grouse (217%) counts were still far above the long-term averages (LTA).

For the first time a Fox Sparrow was recorded on the count. It had been seen at a feeder over several days prior to the count and reappeared on count day. White-throated Sparrow and Rough-legged Hawk were also seen for only the second and fifth times respectively.

Blue Jay and Downy Woodpecker counts have both been trending upward over the 35-year history of the count.



The House Sparrow count (57% of LTA) was well below average, but it has been highly variable over the years, so the decline seen recently in the Saskatoon count is not as apparent here. It may also be that the lower density of feeders in rural areas reduce the opportunity for the spread of disease.

Thank you once again to all participants in the count, especially this year when the conditions were so challenging. Please join us again next year for the 36th 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 for the current year.

1-W	2-NW	3-Wa	4-N	5-NE	6-SE	7-Ma	8-S	9-Si	10-C	Sector	12/20 2025	12/14 2024	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
16	15	12	11	3	14	8	11	7	11	Total Species - count day	27	31	31	30	26	29	26	30	35	29	33	26	28	31
										Total Species - count period		1		2	4	1	1						1	
5.1	4.8	7.2	6.5	1.5	3.8	2.4	5.8	2.5	3.1	Party Hours (field)	42.6	37.7	43.7	39.9	54.4	42.8	46.0	42.7	40.3	44.5	45.0	45.6	48.5	48.1
3	4	3	2	1	3	1	3	1	2	Participants (field + FW)	23	18	19	29	28	25	31	29	24	25	20	18	22	28

										BIRDS														
										Cackling Goose			12											
										Canada Goose			2063		-25	1	6	483	35	544	92	24	1	
										Duck sp.			300											
										Mallard			90		5			2		1				4
										Bufflehead		1	28											
							8	30		Common Goldeneye	38	70	216	38	12	69	77	242	26	1	58			9
										Common Merganser			2					3						
33				1	2		39			Sharp-tailed Grouse	75	89	35	34	68	87	65	48	4	36	34	52	96	5
42	12	19	136		13		160		5	Gray Partridge	387	918	78	194	32	1	58	94	84	39	29	57	4	92
220	45	3	72		6		125		10	Rock Pigeon (feral)	481	250	357	131	437	87	372	61	282	182	368	381	158	269
	10									Eurasian Collared-Dove	10	3	1	16	3	16	2				1		1	
										Mourning Dove								1		1				
										Hawk sp.												1		
										Sharp-shinned Hawk		1	2				-1		2	1				1
										American Goshawk		3			1	-1								2
1							1		1	Bald Eagle	3	1	7	1	-1	5		2	2	3	8		2	
										Red-tailed Hawk													1	
			1							Rough-legged Hawk	1									1				
1	1	1								Snowy Owl	3		2	2	2	-1	5	2	2	1	2	1	5	5
1	1	2								Great Horned Owl	4	2	3	2	5	1	5	4	3	5	9	1	4	6
										Northern Hawk Owl						-1								
										Short-eared Owl		1												
										Boreal Owl		-1												
										Woodpecker sp.				3										
1	3	2	1		5		4	1	4	Downy Woodpecker	21	17	10	14	21	7	15	17	15	15	1	1	18	26
2	2				4	1		1		Hairy Woodpecker	10	8	10	15	1	9	15	15	1	14	7	8	11	8
										Pileated Woodpecker				1									1	
										Northern Flicker			1					1	1		2			1
										Merlin		1	1	2		2	1	1	3			2	1	2
										Gyr Falcon											1			
	1									Northern Shrike	1	3		1				2	2			1	1	1
3	3	9					1	5	3	Blue Jay	24	15	11	3	1	12	25	17	17	9	4	5	6	2

1-W	2-NW	3-Wa	4-N	5-NE	6-SE	7-Ma	8-S	9-Si	10-C	Sector	12/20 2025	12/14 2024	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
21	5	7	5		10	1	15	12	5	Black-billed Magpie	81	154	148	295	241	262	4	255	272	312	221	318	219	315
						2				American Crow	2			1	1					1				
32	3	6	33		8		18		6	Common Raven	106	90	128	166	232	161	344	243	171	221	191	429	37	313
10	24	46	3		22	19	10	3	6	Black-capped Chickadee	143	124	158	13	137	146	184	196	166	21	136	137	29	176
										Horned Lark								3						
										Golden-crowned Kinglet		2											1	2
	3					2				Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	12	5	19	5	14	13	17	11	32	3	1	1	49
										White-breasted Nuthatch		2	10	3	3	2	1	7	8		3	3	2	
										Brown Creeper							2		1	2				3
16			8							European Starling	24	20	35	29	41	97	18	16	33	85	183	165	1	21
										Townsend's Solitaire				1						1	1			
										Varied Thrush				1				1						
										American Robin		2				3	2	7	1		1	1	35	1
					3					Bohemian Waxwing	3	123	68	77	4	55	36		34	188	67	188	11	725
										Cedar Waxwing													3	
90	57	211	30	20	12	95	7	72	5	House Sparrow	599	865	1324	148	1974	148	1926	1523	19	159	135	1427	12	973
										Finch sp.		6												
					4					Pine Grosbeak	4		2			1			34		21	2		94
		25				16				House Finch	41	114	152	64	78	192	85	91	144	117	52	118	71	42
										Purple Finch				2							7			
7		3	110		12					Redpoll	132	10	137	3	1135	24		121	123	6	560	32		1907
										Red Crossbill											21			
										White-winged Crossbill		60				27			5	34	31			34
										Pine Siskin				12		-3	7	15	7	4				
										American Goldfinch									2	1				1
150	25		50	25	33	1	127			Snow Bunting	411	182	52	53	653	87	57	571	58	1	24		1646	479
					1					Fox Sparrow	1													
										Dark-eyed Junco		1			1		4	3	1		2			
										Harris's Sparrow												1		
									2	White-throated Sparrow	2													
										Red-winged Blackbird				1		2		-1						
										Rusty Blackbird				1									-3	
										Common Grackle						3								
630	195	334	449	46	135	137	507	102	77	Total Birds - count day	2612	3150	5448	1344	5094	1522	3329	4062	1571	2036	2276	3357	2378	5568
										Total Birds - count period		1			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-Wa	4-N	5-NE	6-SE	7-Ma	8-S	9-Si	10-C	Sector	12/20 2025	12/14 2024	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
										MAMMALS														
										Shrew sp.							1	1						
										Nuttall's Cottontail												1		
		1 2T								Snowshoe Hare	1	20T					T			T	T	1		
	4T	10T	1		XT	5T	1 15T	xT		White-tailed Jackrabbit	2	35T	4	3	2	5	T	T	2	1	T	T		
								x		American Red Squirrel	1T				T		2	2	1			1		
										Vole sp.					T	T	T							
										Meadow Vole			1											
								1T		Mouse sp.	1T				T						T			
										House Mouse									1					
							1			Porcupine	1	2		2		1	1							
3	3	1T	3T				1			Coyote	7	12	12	1	1		8	2	2	13	1	1		
							1T			Red Fox	1T			3	1	3			1	2				
										Ermine			1											
										Weasel sp.					T		1					1		
										Long-tailed Weasel			2											
								1T		Mink	1T					1								
										American Badger						1								
										River Otter										1				
										Deer sp.											T	T		
					XT		2			Mule Deer	2	5	3	6	15	15		11	2	12		11		
	1 2T				XT			xT		White-tailed Deer	1	12	6	2	35	14	8	12	65	26	9	15		
										Moose				C										

1-W	2-NW	3-Wa	4-N	5-NE	6-SE	7-Ma	8-S	9-Si	10-C	Sector	12/20 2025	12/14 2024	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
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										PARTICIPANTS
1-W	Marten Stoffel, Marilyn Haskins, Loyd Haskins FW									
2-NW	Jake Buhler, Bruce Boldt, Wilf Buhler FW, Brian McGill FW									
3-Wa	Shelly Fisher, Faith Greva, Alex Fisher									
4-N	Guy Wapple, Dale Booth									
5-NE	David Forbes									
6-SE	Sarah Bradley, Lynn Oliphant FW, Rhonda Shewfelt FW									
7-Ma	Allison Krause Danielsen									
8-S	Stan Shadick, Jan Shadick, Rylan Urban									
9-Sil	Lorne Duczek									
10-C	Diane Wells, Jim Wells									

FW - Feeder Watcher

										EFFORT														
8:35	9:15	9:00	9:00	11:00	8:45	10:35	9:30	13:00	9:10	Start Time	8:35	8:20	8:15	8:45	8:30	8:30	8:30	8:30						
14:55	14:30	16:10	15:30	12:30	12:33	13:17	13:50	15:30	13:00	End Time	16:10	16:45	16:00	16:15	15:30	15:15	16:02	17:15						
		4.0	1.0		0.3	0.6	1.5	2.5	1.0	Time on foot (hr)	10.8	9.5	16.0	11.2	24.5	18.6	11.8	13.3	14.3	16.5	14.5	16.7	20.1	20.5
5.1	4.8	3.2	5.5	1.5	3.6	1.8	4.3	0.0	2.1	Time by Car (hr)	31.7	28.2	27.8	28.7	29.8	24.2	34.2	29.4	26.0	28.0	30.5	28.9	28.4	27.6
1.3	4.0				0.8					Time at Feeder (hr)	6.0	2.0	2.7	7.5	3.0	3.5	18.5	5.5	3.5	13.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0
		4.5	1.0		0.4	0.5	2.5		2.0	Dist by foot/ski (km)	10.9	24.0	23.9	26.4	29.1	33.3	23.8	15.0	13.5	18.2	26.0	24.6		
115.0	45.0	67.0	121.0		59.0	7.0	89.0		42.0	Dist by car (km)	545.0	457	511	574	584	556	654	600	507	560	574	515		

										WEATHER														
										Min. Wind (kph)	7	Calm	14	25	7	15	5	22	15	4	5	3		
										Max. Wind (kph)	19	13	24	34	19	50	11	40	28	11	22	16		
										Wind direction	W	SE	NE											
										Min. Temp. (°C)	-30	-15	-7	-21	-26	-3	-27	1	-5	-30	-12	-8		
										Max Temp (°C)	-19	-4	4	-19	-18	4	-18	4	-7	-21	-10	-6		
--	16	30	10	20	--	10	10	20	--	Min Snow Depth (cm)	15	3	0	3	1	12	3	0	0	0	2	10		
--	16	30	25	50	--	30	30	25	--	Max Snow Depth (cm)	30	45	0	50	25	30	10	15	20	4	15	30		
--	5			--				--		Cloud cover AM (%)	cr	cd	ov	ov	pcd	cd	mcr	pcd	pcd	cr	cd	oc		
--	5	25		--				10		Cloud cover PM (%)	mcr	cd	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

1-W	2-NW	3-Wa	4-N	5-NE	6-SE	7-Ma	8-S	9-Si	10-C	Sector	12/20 2025	12/14 2024	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
										HABITAT														
										Evergreen forest														
										Mixedwood forest														
										Deciduous forest										1	1	2		
75	15			15	40	10	20			Aspen grove/ farmland	20	15	15	20	30	25	20	30	28	20	16	22		
	15				20					Aspen grove/prairie	5	5	10	5			5	5	4	6	7	6		
	10									Native prairie							5		4	2	3	3		
				10	10					Tame pasture				5	5		5		4	1	2	1		
	35	50	75	75	10		50		40	Farmland	35	40	25	30	15	25	20	20	22	11	18	17		
	15		5				5			Farmsteads	5	5	5	10	10	10	10	15	10	15	23	22		
25	10	50	15		20	90	10	50	20	Urban (incl. cottages/landfill)	25	25	35	20	35	25	25	20	22	37	25	20		
										Open water						5			1	1	1	2		
			5				15	50	40	Riparian (river bank)	10	10	10	10	5	10	10	10	5	6	4	5		
										Other (specify)														
										Wild Fruit Crop	p	f	p	g	f	f	p	f	p	f	g	f		

p - poor, f - fair, g - good, e - excellent