

**MEDICINE HAT  
INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM**  
Managed by Grasslands Naturalists



June 15, 2009

**2009 SPRING BIRD AND FLOWER COUNT**

Fellow Birder and Flower Watcher:

2009 was another great year as there were 11 species with recorded high counts, including an all time high for Eurasian wigeon (see Table 1 below). This occurred despite slight decreases in total participants, kilometres covered, and hours spent in the field (see Data Summary Table below). Many thanks to all those who volunteered their time this year!

**New species observed:** None.

Table 1. 2009 Spring Bird Count All Time High and Low Observations.

<b>2009 Spring Bird Count – Highs and Lows</b>			
<b>Species</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Previous High</b>	<b>Year</b>
Gadwall	176	88	2008
Eurasian Wigeon	6	1	1996
Bald Eagle	7	3	Numerous
Red-tailed Hawk	19	17	2008
Eurasian-collared Dove	7	5	Numerous
Downy Woodpecker	24	22	1990
Tree Swallow	305	204	2008
Violet-green Swallow	36	29	2002
Blue Jay	18	9	Numerous
American Robin	894	819	2008
Clay-coloured Sparrow	168	153	1996
<b>Species</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Previous Low</b>	<b>Year</b>
Killdeer	26	30	1993

Several species (gadwall, bald eagle, red-tailed hawk, tree swallow, violet-green swallow, American robin, and clay-coloured sparrow) with all time highs observed in 2009 are native species that are relatively common in the Medicine Hat area during spring and summer. Two of our more common year-round residents (downy woodpecker and blue jay) also had highs this year. Of note is that gadwall, red-tailed hawk, tree swallow, and American robin beat previous highs that were just observed in 2008.

Less frequently seen species observed in 2009 included snow goose (1), Eurasian wigeon (6 – ALL TIME HIGH), rough-legged hawk (1), greater yellowlegs (1), willow flycatcher (1), eastern phoebe (1), and lazuli bunting (1).

The top five for 2009 were: American robin (894), European starling (878), red-winged blackbird (634), Canada goose (596), and house sparrow (482).

No species were seen exclusively during count week.

As for flowers in bloom, there were 32 species observed, which is fairly typical for the spring count despite a hard winter and relatively cold spring.

Yours truly,

*Marty Drut*

Marty Drut  
Count Compiler

<b>DATA SUMMARY - 2009</b>					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total Individuals	9,614	7,728	6,682	11,170	10,297
Total Bird Species	132	117	118	142	127
Total Flower Species	36	36	36	33	32
Participants	24	26	19	30	25
Total Km Walked	159	94.5	45.75	95.0	76
Total Km Driven	191	183	181	293	236
Hours of Observation	86.5	59.25	47.25	95.25	86.25
on foot:	-	-	32.25	60.25	50.5
by car:	-	-	15	35.0	35.75
feeder:				2	2

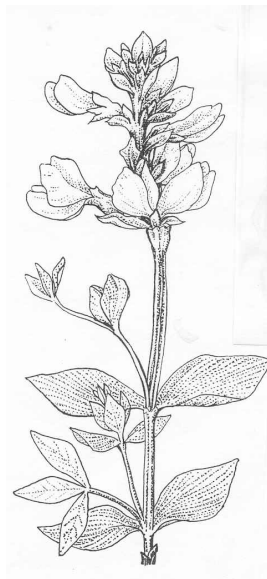
## Wildflowers in bloom: 32 species

Prairie Onion (*Allium textile*)  
Star-flowered Solomon's Seal  
(*Smilacina stellata*)  
Willow Species (*Salix sp.*)  
Pale Comandra (Bastard Toadflax)  
(*Comandra umbellata*)  
Field Chickweed (*Cerastium arvense*)  
Mouse-eared Chickweed (*Cerastium vulgatum*)  
Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)  
Sand Bladderpod (*Lesquerella arenosa*)  
Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum*)  
Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)  
Three-flowered Avens (*Geum triflorum*)  
Shrubby Cinqufoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*)  
Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)  
Western Mountain Ash (*Sorbus americana*)  
Purple Milk-vetch (*Astragalus dasyglottis*)  
Cushion Milk-vetch (*Astragalus gilviflorus*)

Narrow-leaved Milk-vetch  
(*Astragalus pectinatus*)  
Common Caragana (*Caragana arborescens*)  
Early Yellow Locoweed (*Oxytropis sericea*)  
Golden Bean (*Thermopsis rhombifolia*)  
Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)  
Skunk-bush (*Rhus trilobata*)  
Early Blue Violet (*Viola adunca*)  
Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)  
Moss Phlox (*Phlox hoodii*)  
Narrow-leaved Puccoon  
(*Lithospermum incisum*)  
Smooth Blue Beard-tongue (*Penstemon nitidus*)  
Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*)  
Common Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)  
Low Everlasting (*Antennaria aprica*)  
Common Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)  
Yellow Goat's-beard (*Tragopogon dubius*)

## PARTICIPANTS:

Bernice Morrison  
Mark Schiebelbein  
Dan Schiebelbein  
Ben Verner  
Mike Verner  
Rick Carrier  
Milt Spitzer  
Elaine Spitzer  
Phil Horch  
Annalora Horch  
Michael O'Shea  
Eileen Cowtan  
Dale Holmes  
Lisa Holmes  
Jennifer Roberts  
Jim Marshall  
Jo-Anne Reynolds  
Cam Lockerbie  
Jim Knelson  
Corlaine Gardner  
Jan Scott  
Valerie Martins  
Marty Drut  
Tina Regehr  
Val Felesky



Species	May 29 2005	May 28 2006	May 27 2007	May 25 2008	May 24 2009
Horned Grebe	6	4	-	2	-
Eared Grebe	14	-	5	19	15
Western Grebe	1	-	-	1	3
White Pelican	45	39	51	159 <i>high</i>	144
Double-crested Cormorant	5	2	4	40 <i>high</i>	16
American Bittern	1	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	98	107	114	50	143
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	1	-	-
White-faced Ibis	-	-	-	1	-
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	1
Canada Goose	557	469	606	549	596
Wood Duck	9	3	5	7	3
Green-winged Teal	-	7	-	2	-
Mallard	264	204	135	226	205
Northern Pintail	29	28	26	27	22
Blue-winged Teal	94	100	48	96	81
Cinnamon Teal	5	1	1	-	6
Northern Shoveler	46	39	57	109	78
Gadwall	49	23	45	88	176 <i>high</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	-	6 <i>high</i>
American Wigeon	18	12	29	26	16
Canvasback	44	10	31	25	20
Redhead	8	4	11	38 <i>high</i>	18
Ring-necked Duck	4	-	-	1	-
Lesser Scaup	32	8	6	14	19
Greater Scaup	-	-	5	8 <i>high</i>	2
Common Goldeneye	15	10	11	25	16
Bufflehead	6	-	-	1	-
Hooded Merganser	-	-	1	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	2	-	2	-
Common Merganser	30	16	50	22	9
Ruddy Duck	4	11	2	1	11
Turkey Vulture	13	5	8	23 <i>high</i>	22
Osprey	1	-	1	5 <i>high</i>	3
Northern Harrier	6	2	1	18	12
Bald Eagle	1	3	3	2	7 <i>high</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	-	-	-	-
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	2	1	1
Broad-winged Hawk	-	1	CW	1	1
Swainson's Hawk	15	10	13	24	20
Red-tailed Hawk	5	9	10	17	19 <i>high</i>
Ferruginous Hawk	1	-	-	1	-
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	2 <i>high</i>	1
American Kestrel	15	19	12	16	14
Merlin	5	4	3	10	7
Prairie Falcon	5	1	5	4	4

Species	May 29 2005	May 28 2006	May 27 2007	May 25 2008	May 24 2009
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	<b>1 NEW!</b>	-
Gray Partridge	12	24	14	13	12
Ring-necked Pheasant	12 <i>low</i>	15	29	92 <i>high</i>	87
Sharp-tailed Grouse	2	-	-	3	-
Sora	-	1	5	13	6
American Coot	5 <i>low</i>	8	16	66 <i>high</i>	54
Killdeer	74	54	41	46	26 <i>low</i>
Black-necked Stilt	-	-	1	-	-
American Avocet	4	-	7	6	2
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	1
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	1	-	3
Solitary Sandpiper	17	-	-	1	-
Willet	20	4	7	22	11
Spotted Sandpiper	17	12	14	15	31
Upland Sandpiper	4	-	-	-	3
Whimbrel	-	-	-	5 <i>high</i>	-
Long-billed Curlew	5	6	18	9	8
Marbled Godwit	28	17	13	32	18
Common Snipe	11	4	20	27	15
Wilson's Phalarope	26	16	23	40	28
Franklin's Gull	49	148	23	127	213
Ring-billed Gull	580	392	122	598	350
California Gull	154	68	58	29	64
"White-headed Gulls"	-	100	20	14	-
Common Tern	12	-	7	4	16
Caspian Tern	6	-	1	6	-
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	1	-
Black Tern	4	-	4	5	-
Rock Pigeon	392	305	272	446	383
Mourning Dove	166	128	195	313	299
Eurasian-collared Dove	5	4	4	5	7 <i>high</i>
Great Horned Owl	6	7	7	13	10
Common Nighthawk	1	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	3	4	3	7	6
Pileated Woodpecker	-	CW	1	2 <i>high</i>	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	1	-	1	-
Red-naped Sapsucker	1	-	CW	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	14	6	8	19	24 <i>high</i>
Hairy Woodpecker	2	-	1	1	1
Northern Flicker	67	43	30	76	48
Western Wood Pewee	8	3	9	1	7
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	1	CW	-	-
"Trail's Flycatcher" = (Alder & Willow Flycatcher)	-	-	CW	2	-
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	-	-	CW	-
Willow Flycatcher	-	-	-	CW	1

Species	May 29 2005	May 28 2006	May 27 2007	May 25 2008	May 24 2009
Least Flycatcher	60	44	36	41	57
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	1
Say's Phoebe	5	2	1	2	2
Western Kingbird	67	41	97	38	98
Eastern Kingbird	87	66	47	31	92
Horned Lark	119	62	11	45	16
Tree Swallow	109	102	97	204	305 <i>high</i>
Violet-green Swallow	26	2	26	4	36 <i>high</i>
N. Roughed-winged Swallow	4	1	17	12	9
Bank Swallow	16	913	8	122	46
Cliff Swallow	14	111	35	91	68
Barn Swallow	31	25	41	39	35
Purple Martin	-	-	CW	-	-
Blue Jay	3	7	8	9	18 <i>high</i>
Black-billed Magpie	199	182	143	213	196
American Crow	127	64	89	123	110
Black-capped Chickadee	55	25	25	60	56
Red-breasted Nuthatch	17	3	10	13	22
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	1	-	-	3
Rock Wren	6	1	6	-	2
House Wren	114	122	148	215	256
Marsh Wren	1	-	-	7 <i>high</i>	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	2	-	1	-
Mountain Bluebird	-	1	1	-	-
Veery	-	-	-	2	-
Swainson's Thrush	1	6	3	24	23
Hermit Thrush	1	-	-	-	-
American Robin	669	592	443	819	894 <i>high</i>
Gray Catbird	11	34	24	69	54
Northern Mockingbird	-	1	-	1	-
Brown Thrasher	31	44	20	67	62
Sprague's Pipit	15	15	7	10	10
Cedar Waxwing	12	69	2	56	-
Bohemian Waxwing	-	5 <i>high</i>	-	-	-
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	1	1	-
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	2 <b>NEW!</b>	2
European Starling	826	463	845	779	878
Blue-headed Vireo (Solitary)	1	-	-	CW	-
Warbling Vireo	13	12	21	9	21
Red-eyed Vireo	3	4	2	5	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	5	-	10	2
Tennessee Warbler	2	3	-	11	3
Yellow Warbler	316	234	204	290	377
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4	-	-	7	6
Blackpoll Warbler	-	1	-	4	17
Ovenbird	-	-	-	CW	-

Species	May 29 2005	May 28 2006	May 27 2007	May 25 2008	May 24 2009
Northern Waterthrush	-	-	-	1	-
Black-and-white Warbler	-	-	-	-	1
American Redstart	-	-	1	1	1
Common Yellowthroat	15	19	21	12	19
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	CW	2
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	1	3	CW	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	1	-	1	1
Lazuli Bunting	17 <i>high</i>	4	CW	6	1
Indigo Bunting	1	-	-	-	-
Spotted Towhee	39	26	24	47	61
American Tree Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-
Chipping Sparrow	99	70	30	309 <i>high</i>	82
Clay-coloured Sparrow	87	57	57	145	168 <i>high</i>
Brewer's Sparrow	3	3	-	-	-
Vesper Sparrow	82	59	49	137 <i>high</i>	117
Lark Sparrow	78	63	54	52	80
Lark Bunting	3	29	2	16	1
Savannah Sparrow	28	31	33	55	40
Baird's Sparrow	9 <i>high</i>	5	5	3	3
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	-	-	-	5 <b>NEW!</b>	-
Grasshopper Sparrow	5	-	2	-	3
Song Sparrow	8	5	5	7	15
White-crowned Sparrow	-	2	-	6	-
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	2	1
Harris's Sparrow	-	-	-	3	-
Dark-eyed Junco	2	-	-	2	2
Chestnut-collared Longspur	3	2	4	-	-
McGown's Longspur	2	-	-	-	-
Bobolink	1	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	499	331	295	878	634
Western Meadowlark	493	312	235	425	368
Yellow-headed Blackbird	92	84	115	357 <i>high</i>	123
Brewer's Blackbird	341	253	146	480	268
Common Grackle	255	187	377	330	323
Brown-headed Cowbird	205 <i>high</i>	85	74	190	178
Baltimore Oriole	35	26	22	45	25
White-winged Crossbill	-	-	5	-	-
Red Crossbill	1	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	17	-	7	-	-
American Goldfinch	18	43	64	31	46
House Finch	229 <i>high</i>	28	80	52	22
Purple Finch	-	-	-	1	-
House Sparrow	759	204	267	410	482
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</b>	9,614	7,728	6,682	11,170	10,297
<b>TOTAL SPECIES</b>	132	117	118	142	127