

26th annual

Brooks-Lake Newell Bird Count May 16-18, 2025



Photo: Marsh Wren, Arthur Wieckowski

Lake Newell, Brooks and the surrounding area feature diverse prairie grassland plant life, irrigated farmlands, and many (245+) species of birds such as Burrowing Owl, Black-necked Stilt, Grasshopper and Baird's Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, Long-billed Curlew, an abundance of spring warblers in riparian areas, and animals such as: Pronghorn Antelope, Prairie Rattlesnake, Great Plains Toad and many more.

All 2025 participants must pre-register.

To register contact: Debra Hornsby
debra.hornsby.banff@gmail.com

Information about the count:
Donna Wieckowski
astolat@shaw.ca 403-870-6222



SCHEDULE

Friday, May 16

Register at hotel or set-up campsite at Tillebrook Park campground

6:30 pm: Pre-Count Meeting: Heritage Inn Hotel, 1217 2 Street West, Brooks, AB. Be sure to be there! Introduction to count and area species, assignment of count areas, distribute maps, meet fellow birders. Optional pizza dinner (user pay). BYOB.

Saturday, May 17

6:00 am: meet at Tillebrook park office for park bird walk, and/or disperse to count areas

7:00 pm: Social at Heritage Inn Hotel, featuring sandwich and cheese platter. BYOB. Deliver Saturday count totals (one list per zone team), discuss sightings, swap stories. Fun prizes! Assignment of Sunday count areas.

Sunday, May 18

6:00 am: meet at Tillebrook park headquarters for park bird walk, and/or disperse to count areas

6-7 pm: deliver Sunday count results (one list per zone team) to Tillebrook campsite B33 or email debra.hornsby.banff@gmail.com Weather permitting, we will gather at Campsite #33 Sunday evenings to swap stories and sightings! BYOC – bring your own chair!

Note: a small non-refundable fee of \$15 will be charged to each Brooks participant to cover Heritage Inn costs.

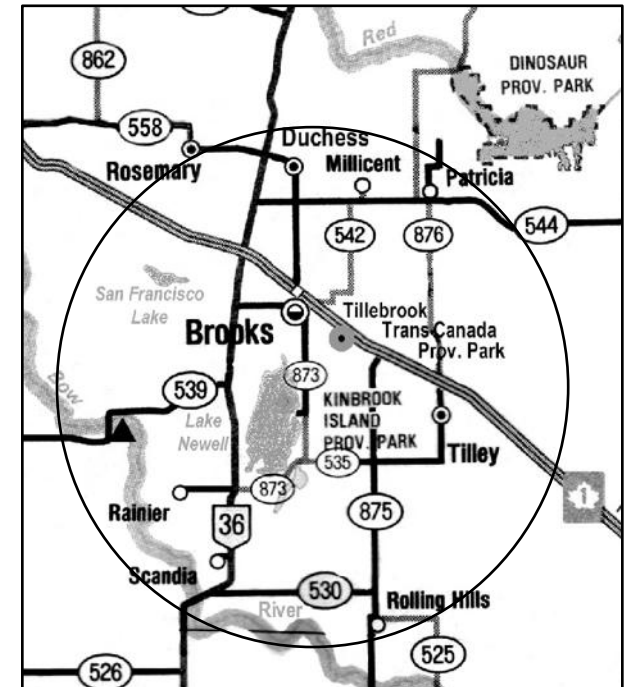
Travel Advisory

Many count areas are accessed via rough country roads. Spring conditions can make travel difficult. High-clearance or 4x4 vehicles are recommended. Count area maps provided are an overview only. We suggest having your own maps and/or GPS.

AREA ACCOMODATION

Tillebrook campsites can be booked through shop.albertaparks.ca, 1-877-537-2757. **General reservations for May 17-18 will open at 9 am on Saturday February 15.** A limited number of powered campsites have been reserved for count participants. You are responsible for booking your own campsite, well in advance. **The Heritage Inn is also offering a discount rate of \$125 + tax per night for count recipients.** For more information, email: debra.hornsby.banff@gmail.com.

Hotels in Brooks include: Heritage Inn & Suites, Days Inn & Suites, Tel Star Motel, Travelodge, and Ramada. Other area campgrounds include: Brooks Kiwanis campground, Cobblestone RV Park, Kinbrook Island Provincial Park, and Rolling Hills Reservoir Campground.



Map: Randal Hoscheit

24th annual

Milk River Writing-on-Stone Bird Count May 23-25, 2024



Photo: Long-billed Curlew Arthur Wieckowski

Grasslands, coulees and riparian areas meet in Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park (WOSPP), creating a great diversity of habitats for wildlife. At least 13 species of fish, 4 species of amphibians, 3 species of reptiles, 30 species of mammals and more than 160 species of birds have been recorded within the park. The count area includes WOSPP; Crow Indian, Verdigris and Pakowki Lakes; Pinhorn provincial grazing reserve; Manyberries, Ketchum and Canal Creeks; and remote areas along the Milk River. The headquarters for the 2024 count will be WOSPP.

All 2025 participants must pre-register.

To register contact:

Debra Hornsby

debra.hornsby.banff@gmail.com

Information about the count:

Donna Wieckowski

astolat@shaw.ca 403-870-6222

SCHEDULE

Friday, May 23

Register at motel or set-up campsite at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park

6- 7 pm: Pre-count meeting. Location: WOSPP day-use kitchen shelter. Be sure to be there!

Introduction to count and area species, assignment of count areas, distribute maps, meet fellow birders. 7 pm: walk park trails

Saturday, May 24

6:00 am: meet in front of campground office for morning bird walk, and/or disperse to count areas

6-7 pm: deliver count results (one list per zone team) to Campsite #33 or email

debra.hornsby.banff@gmail.com

Sunday, May 25

6:00 am: meet in front of campground office for morning bird walk, and/or disperse to count areas.

6-7 pm: deliver count results (one list per zone team) to Campsite #33 or email

debra.hornsby.banff@gmail.com

Evening campfire gatherings:

weather permitting, we will gather at Campsite #33

Saturday and Sunday evenings to swap stories and sightings! BYOC – bring your own chair!

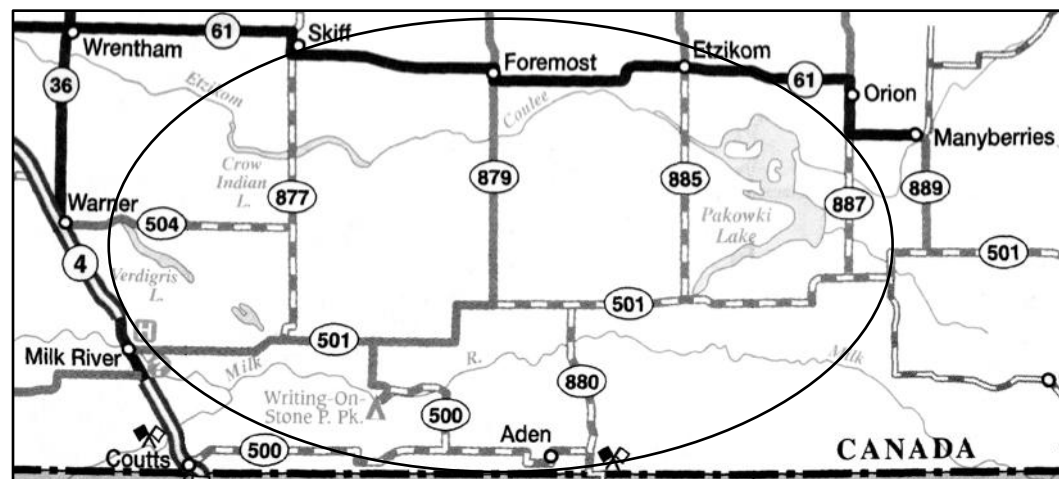
AREA ACCOMMODATION

Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park: Reservations: shop.albertaparks.ca, 1-877-537-2757. **General reservations for May 23-25 will open at 9 am on Saturday February 22.** You are responsible for booking your campsite, well in advance. For more information, email debra.hornsby.banff@gmail.com.

Hotel/motel options are limited. Possibilities include the Sandstone Motel in Milk River, and Double Tree Inn in Coutts. Area campgrounds include 8 Flags Campground in Milk River, and Gold Springs Park 4 km south of Milk River.

Travel Advisory

Many count areas are accessed via rough country roads. Spring conditions can make travel difficult. High-clearance or 4x4 vehicles are recommended. Count area maps provided are an overview only. We suggest having your own maps and/or GPS.



Map:
Randal Hoscheit