

WESTERN GREBE SURVEYS IN ALBERTA 2016

The western grebe has been listed as a *Threatened* species in Alberta. A recent data compilation shows that there are approximately 250 lakes that have supported western grebes in Alberta. However, information for most lakes is poor and outdated. Total counts on lakes are rare, breeding status is uncertain, and the location and extent of breeding habitat (emergent vegetation, usually bulrush) is usually unknown. We are seeking your help in gathering more information on western grebe populations in Alberta. If you visit any of the lakes listed below, or know anyone that does, we would appreciate as much detail as you can collect on the presence of western grebes and their habitat. Let us know in advance (if possible) if you are planning on going to any lakes, and when you do, e-mail details of your observations to Dave.Prescott@gov.ab.ca.



SURVEY METHODS: Visit a lake between 1 May and 31 August with spotting scope or good binoculars. Surveys can be done from a boat, or vantage point(s) from shore. Report names of surveyors, dates, number of adults seen, and report on the approximate percentage of the lake area that this number represents. Record presence of young birds or nesting colonies, and provide any additional information on presence/location of likely breeding habitat, specific parts of the lake observed, observed threats to birds or habitat (boat traffic, shoreline clearing, pollution, etc.). Please report on findings even if no birds were seen.

Lakes on the following page that are flagged with an asterisk (*) were not visited in 2015, and are priority for survey in 2016. But please report on presence of western grebes on any of the listed lakes, and on any new lakes where you encounter them.

Example of data to be collected (the more info the better):

LAKE: Smith Lake (SW of Fort MacMurray)

DATE: 21 July 2016

SURVEYOR(S): Bruce Dickinson, Dave Murray

METHOD: 2 hours spent in canoe on SW shore, scan from boat launch at McBrain Marina (55.12N, -111.326W), and from hill on NW side at end of RR 298.

% of LAKE AREA OBSERVED: approx. 80%

WESTERN GREBES SEEN (adults only!) 16

NEST OR YOUNG SEEN? At least two pairs with young seen. Breeding confirmed!

KNOWN OR LIKELY LOCATION OF NESTING COLONY: Only significant patch of emergent bulrush is north of McBrain Marina, at approximately 55.16N, -111.33W. A few birds were seen offshore this area.

NOTES: Birds seen were scattered in SE arm of lake. Some boat traffic near potential habitat noted. Lake was wavy and possible some birds were missed. Water levels were low, and possibly better habitat in high-water years. Likely no more than 30 birds on lake in 2016.

KNOWN WESTERN GREBE LAKES IN ALBERTA (TO 2015) BY REGION

ID	Lower Athabasca	Lat	Long	82	Elk Island National Park*	53.61	-112.86	162	Kitsam Sloughs*	50.50	-112.06
1	Alicia Lake*	54.44	-111.95	83	Erskine Lake	52.31	-112.89	163	Lac des Arcs	51.05	-115.18
2	Angling Lake	54.20	-110.33	84	Figure Lake*	54.43	-112.61	164	Lafarge Meadows Wetland	50.89	-114.00
3	Beaver Lake*	54.73	-111.87	85	Fox Lake	51.66	-111.99	165	Lake Bonavista*	50.94	-114.05
4	Blackett Lake*	54.74	-111.57	86	Garner Lake	54.20	-111.73	166	Lake Newell*	50.43	-111.94
5	Burnt Lake*	54.69	-112.31	87	Genesee Lake*	53.34	-114.33	167	Langdon (Dalemead) Lake*	50.92	-113.63
7	Christina Lake*	55.62	-110.93	88	Glennifer Lake	52.03	-114.28	168	Lost Lake*	50.15	-112.31
8	Cold Lake	54.52	-110.12	89	Gull Lake	52.54	-114.00	169	Louisiana Lakes Reservoir*	50.52	-111.40
9	Conn Lake*	54.52	-111.11	90	Handhills Lake*	51.49	-112.12	170	Lower Milk River*	49.01	-110.58
10	Cushing Lake*	54.06	-110.44	91	Hanna Reservoir	51.64	-111.93	171	Lower Waterton Lake*	49.10	-113.86
11	Dabbs Lake*	54.77	-111.48	92	Hastings Lake	53.42	-112.92	172	MacIroy's Slough	51.07	-113.80
12	Elinor Lake*	54.66	-111.65	93	Indian Lake*	53.39	-110.99	173	Many Islands Lake*	50.16	-110.04
13	Ethel Lake*	54.53	-110.35	94	Isle Lake	53.63	-114.74	174	Marguerite Lake*	50.38	-114.16
14	Fork Lake	54.47	-111.56	95	Islet Lake*	53.45	-112.82	175	McDonald Lake	51.19	-113.95
15	Francis Lake*	54.96	-111.57	96	Kehewin Lake*	54.06	-110.90	176	McGregor Lake	50.51	-112.88
16	Frog Lake	53.92	-110.33	97	Lac Canard*	53.88	-111.35	177	Meadowbrook Lake*	50.57	-111.87
17	Harold Lake*	54.47	-110.58	98	Lac Sante	53.84	-111.58	178	Milk River Ridge Reservoir*	49.37	-112.63
18	Heart Lake*	55.03	-111.50	99	Lake Minnewanka*	51.27	-115.39	179	Minor Lakes/Kinivie Marsh*	50.37	-111.50
19	Helena Lake*	54.68	-111.59	100	Little Fish Lake	51.38	-112.23	180	Murray Lake	49.79	-110.97
20	Ironwood Lake*	54.60	-111.52	101	Lonepine Lake*	54.43	-112.07	181	Namaka Lake	50.94	-113.22
21	Jackson Lake*	54.81	-111.55	102	Lower Therien Lake*	53.94	-111.36	182	Oldman River*	49.92	-111.76
22	Jessie Lake	54.26	-110.75	103	Ministik Lake*	53.34	-113.02	183	Pakowki Lake	49.35	-110.97
23	Kerr Lake*	54.52	-112.06	104	Miquelon Lake	53.25	-112.90	184	Rattlesnake (Sauder) Res	49.98	-111.00
24	Kinnaird Lake*	54.78	-111.53	105	North Saskatchewan River*	53.59	-113.37	185	Red Deer River (Bow City)*	50.43	-112.23
25	Kinosiu Lake*	54.73	-112.32	106	Oakland Lake	51.23	-111.50	186	Reesor Lake*	49.67	-110.11
26	Lac La Biche	54.86	-112.12	107	Pigeon Lake*	53.03	-114.06	187	Rolling Hills Lake*	50.36	-111.90
27	Landry Lake*	54.21	-110.63	108	Pine Lake	52.08	-113.44	188	Rutherford Lake*	50.13	-110.22
28	Lane Lake*	54.71	-110.91	109	Prairie Oasis Park	51.46	-111.81	189	Sadler's Slough*	51.05	-113.54
29	Logan Lake*	55.08	-111.37	110	Red Deer River*	52.31	-113.78	190	Sam Lake*	50.15	-110.26
30	Manatokan Lake*	54.47	-110.96	111	Samson Lake*	52.76	-113.25	191	Scope Reservoir/Hays Lake	50.06	-111.81
31	Missawawi Lake*	54.73	-112.20		Shooting Lake*	52.18	-112.34	192	Seven Persons Reservoir*	49.86	-110.91
32	Moore Lake/Crane Lake*	54.52	-110.52	112	Slacks Slough	52.20	-113.81	193	Shanks Lake	49.07	-112.72
33	Moose Lake	54.24	-110.93	113	South Saskatchewan River*	50.68	-110.14	194	Shepards Sloughs	50.95	-113.88
34	Muriel Lake	54.15	-110.68	114	Sylvan Lake*	52.36	-114.16	195	Sherburne Lake	49.75	-111.78
35	Noral Lake*	54.63	-112.39	115	Telford Lake	53.27	-113.52	196	Silverado Slough*	50.89	-114.06
36	Otter Lake*	55.12	-111.72	116	Unnamed Wetland 11*	52.23	-111.69	197	South Saskatchewan River*	50.04	-110.64
37	Piche Lake*	55.04	-111.59		Unnamed Wetland 7	52.92	-110.61	198	Stobart Lake*	50.91	-113.19
38	Pinehurst Lake*	54.65	-111.43	117	Unnamed Wetland 3*	53.32	-110.79	199	Taber Lake	49.80	-112.09
39	Portage Lake*	54.96	-112.05	118	Unnamed Wetland 5*	53.37	-111.00	200	Third Lake	50.76	-113.69
40	Reita Lake*	54.14	-110.43	119	Unnamed Wetland 9*	53.53	-110.86	201	Tide Lake*	50.55	-111.34
41	Seibert Lake*	54.73	-111.31	120	Upper Therien Lake*	53.97	-111.29	202	Tilley A Reservoir	50.50	-111.63
42	Sinclair Lake*	54.72	-110.66	121	Vermilion Lakes*	51.18	-115.59	203	Tilley B Reservoir	50.57	-111.66
43	Square Lake*	54.91	-111.84	122	Wabamun Lake	53.55	-114.60	204	Tyrrell Lake	49.39	-112.26
44	Tawakwato Lake*	54.69	-112.21	123	Watt Lake	53.70	-111.93	205	Unnamed Wetland 1*	49.68	-110.98
45	Touchwood Lake*	54.83	-111.38	124	Wizard Lake	53.11	-113.87	206	Unnamed Wetland 10*	49.56	-112.30
46	Tucker Lake*	54.53	-110.61		ID South Sask	Lat	Long	207	Unnamed Wetland 12*	50.44	-111.46
47	Whitefish Lake	54.37	-111.90	125	Badger Lake	50.38	-112.47	208	Unnamed Wetland 13*	49.94	-111.74
48	Winefred Lake*	55.48	-110.54	126	Blizzard Lake	50.77	-113.76	209	Unnamed Wetland 2*	49.56	-113.71
49	Wolf Lake*	54.68	-110.96	127	Bow Island*	49.87	-111.39	210	Unnamed Wetland 4*	49.57	-111.28
ID	Peace	Lat	Long	128	Bow River (Carseland Weir)	50.82	-113.45	211	Unnamed Wetland 6*	49.12	-111.49
50	Bear Lake	55.26	-118.99	129	Bow/Kan Birders Area*	51.16	-114.97	212	Unnamed Wetland 8*	49.18	-110.88
51	Beaverlodge Sewage Lagoon*	55.19	-119.43	130	Brant Sloughs	50.45	-113.53	213	Upper Waterton Lake	49.05	-113.90
52	Calling Lake	55.24	-113.30	131	Bruce Lake	51.20	-113.55	214	Verdigris Lake	49.24	-112.02
53	Henderson Lake*	55.35	-119.10	132	Cameron Lake*	49.02	-114.05	215	Waterton Reservoir*	49.30	-113.70
54	Lac Cardinal*	56.24	-117.74	133	Cattleland Slough	51.16	-113.40	216	Waterton River (marsh)*	49.11	-113.84
55	Musreau Lake	54.53	-118.62	134	CFB Suffield Wetland 1*	50.69	-111.04	217	Weed Lake*	50.99	-113.66
56	Peace River*	58.32	-116.32	135	CFB Suffield Wetland 2*	50.40	-110.85	ID	Upper Athabasca	Lat	Long
57	Sandy Lake	55.83	-113.40	136	Chain Lakes Reservoir	50.21	-114.20	218	Amisk Lake	54.58	-112.64
58	Saskatoon Lake	55.22	-119.09	137	Chestermere Sloughs*	51.07	-113.82	219	Baptiste Lake	54.77	-113.56
59	Sturgeon Lake	55.11	-117.52	138	Clear Lake	50.14	-113.41	220	Brock Lake	53.81	-114.84
ID	Red Deer - North Sask	Lat	Long	139	Crawling Valley Reservoir	50.90	-112.36	221	Charron Lake*	54.85	-112.51
60	Akasu Lake*	53.50	-111.83	140	Crow Indian Lake	49.38	-111.75	222	Chip Lake	53.66	-115.39
61	Astotin Lake*	53.68	-112.85	141	Deadhorse Lake	51.06	-112.67	223	Island Lake*	54.84	-113.54
62	Battle Lake*	52.97	-114.19	142	Eagle Lake	51.00	-113.32	224	Lac La Nonne	53.94	-114.33
63	Beaverhill Lake	53.46	-112.54	143	Elkwater Lake*	49.67	-110.30	225	Lac St. Anne	53.72	-114.44
64	Bens Lake	53.66	-111.87	144	Elliston Lake*	51.03	-113.94	226	Lawrence Lake*	55.00	-113.71
65	Big Knife Provincial Park*	52.49	-112.21	145	Emmerson Lake	50.58	-113.85	227	Lesser Slave Lake	55.45	-115.34
66	Big Lake	53.59	-113.74	146	Etzikom Coulee	49.43	-111.32	228	Long Lake*	54.57	-113.65
67	Blood Indian Creek Resvr*	51.24	-111.21	147	Fincastle Lake	49.83	-111.98	229	Nakamun Lake	53.88	-114.21
68	Bonnie Lake*	54.15	-111.87	148	Fish Creek Provincial Park*	50.90	-114.02	230	North Buck Lake	54.68	-112.57
69	Buck Lake	53.00	-114.77	149	Forty Mile Coulee Reservoir	49.60	-111.36	231	Obed Lake	53.56	-117.14
70	Buffalo Lake	52.48	-112.88	150	Frank Lake	50.56	-113.71	232	Pyramid Lake*	52.92	-118.10
71	Coal Lake*	53.09	-113.30	151	Ghost Reservoir	51.20	-114.75	233	Romeo Lake*	54.06	-114.87
72	Coleman Lake	51.45	-111.87	152	Gladys Sloughs*	50.75	-113.63	234	Skeleton Lake	54.62	-112.73
73	Cooking Lake	53.42	-113.04	153	Glenmore Reservoir	50.98	-114.12	235	Steele Lake	54.65	-113.78
74	Cranna Lake*	52.47	-113.74	154	Henderson Lake	49.69	-112.80	236	Talbot Lake*	53.09	-118.00
75	Crestomere Lake	52.67	-113.92	155	Horsefly Reservoir	49.72	-112.06	237	Thunder Lake	54.13	-114.76
76	Crimson Lake*	52.46	-115.04	156	Irricana Reservoir	51.30	-113.56	238	Utikuma Lake	55.87	-115.43
77	Dinosaur Provincial Park*	50.76	-111.52	157	Irricana Sloughs	51.28	-113.47	239	Winagami Lake	55.63	-116.74
78	Driedmeat Reservoir*	52.87	-112.75	158	Jensen Reservoir*	49.31	-112.90	240	Windy Lake*	54.60	-112.60
79	Dwayne Lake*	54.44	-112.12	159	Johnson Lake*	50.59	-111.89				
80	Eagle Hill*	51.83	-114.47	160	Keho Lake*	49.95	-113.00				
81	Eliza Lake*	53.81	-111.19	161	Kitsam Reservoir	50.45	-112.10				

*Priority lakes to survey in 2016