How does our estimate of overall waterbid abundance vary based on the number of surveys conducted?

Here I sequentially removed surveys from the end of the season and recalculated the mean per survey abundance of all species combined. This suggests that if we were to only conduct survey (Which surveys included = 1), which is likely often the CBC count, then our estimated abundance would often be different than when we do multiple surveys in a season. There appears to be little difference in estimated total waterbird abundance between 2, 3, or all surveys. However, it should be noted that we have only conducted 4 surveys in 9 years; even when we have tried for 4 surveys, we’ve most often 3 instead. Thus it is not surprising that the “3” and “all” lines are so similar, because they are often exactly the same data.

