

# INDIAN PEAKS FOUR SEASON BIRD COUNTS

Fall 2004, Winter 2005

Newsletter

Vol.23 No.4 and Vol.24 No.1

## Fall Count Summary

The fall weather was a continuation of the wet and cool summer. The results of the Fall Count were higher than average number of birds and below average number of species.

### Fall Count Summary

#### Number of Species

2004 – 76

20-year Average – 83

Record – 99 (1992)

#### Number of Individuals

2004 – 38/count hour

20-year average – 33/count hour

Record – 45 (1992)

The higher than average number of birds appeared to be driven by several factors. There were high numbers for several irruptive species, including (2004 number per count hour followed by the 20-year average) red-breasted nuthatch (.90/.38), red crossbill (1.20/.63), pine siskin (3.34/1.85), and American goldfinch (1.03/.02). Some of this is probably a hold over from the good cone crop on many of the conifer tree species that began almost a year ago. Resident species, including cone seed-eaters and corvids, also did well numerically, including black-billed magpie (.52/.28), American crow (2.07/.75), white-breasted nuthatch (.46/.22), and pygmy nuthatch (1.27/.51).

The poor number of species was contributed to by the lack of neotropical migrants (no flycatchers and fewer warblers, including low counts for Wilson's and yellow-rumped), a poor showing of waterfowl (no green-winged teal or ring-necked duck), and not observing several hard-to-find species

(northern goshawk, white-tailed ptarmigan, and brown-capped rosy-finch). California gull (or any gull species), mourning dove, Williamson's sapsucker, and red-winged blackbird were also not observed and are normally seen on the Fall Count.

Good finds for the Fall Count included double-crested cormorant (8<sup>th</sup> time; DB, DH), northern pygmy-owl (2<sup>nd</sup> time; BK, GM, MB, EZ), northern saw-whet owl (1<sup>st</sup> time; DH, DB), blue jay (4<sup>th</sup> time; DH), western bluebird (6<sup>th</sup> time; CL, DK, EH, MG, BG), western tanager (5<sup>th</sup> time; BK, GM, MB, EZ), and black-headed grosbeak (2<sup>nd</sup> time; DH).

## Winter Count Summary

The Winter Count totals were rather average. The montane count areas saw an average of 25 birds per count hour, while the subalpine areas observed only 5 per count hour. I remember years like this in the subalpine; it's why we left Eldora for Arizona.

### Winter Count Summary

#### Number of Species

2005 – 36

20-year Average – 36

Record – 42 (1984)

#### Number of Individuals

2005 – 17/count hour

20-year average – 18/count hour

Record – 29 (1999)

But each winter is unique in the composition of species comprising the count. Irruptions of Bohemian waxwings and/or cone seed-eaters (particularly red crossbills) normally drive high numbers. Neither happened this year, though waxwings were present and seed-eaters were about average.

Flickers, robins, solitaires and juncos, a group I call mild weather ground feeders, were absent or below average. Most counts indicated high coverage of the ground by snow. Pine siskins were also virtually absent (1 was seen); they had a high count in the fall but obviously did not hang around (though there were the most I have seen in Arizona this winter).

These losses were offset by higher than average numbers of corvids (no surprise there as jays, crows, ravens, magpies, and nutcrackers continue to increase), and other resident species including hairy woodpecker, mountain chickadee, all three nuthatch species and pine grosbeak. Evening grosbeak also made a comeback after not being observed during the last two winters.

There were a number of good finds on the count, including Canada goose (5<sup>th</sup> time; BK, AB, MB, AG) northern saw-whet owl (2<sup>nd</sup> time; BS, AC, EZ, TD), and northern pygmy-owl (4<sup>th</sup> time; BK, AB, BS, AC, EZ, TD). It is interesting that both saw-whet and pygmy owls were seen on the fall and winter counts.

Species often seen on the Winter Count but missed this year included three-toed woodpecker (seen on 75% of winter counts), American robin (62%), red-winged blackbird (58%), and Cassin's finch (54%). Red-winged blackbirds have been observed in lower than average numbers or absent since the past Breeding Count.

**Spring Count**

Count Day – May 7  
Count Period – May 1-14

**Breeding Count**

Count Day – June 18  
Count Period – June 1 – July 15

Happy Birding,

Dave Hallock

**Looking Ahead**

## 2004 INDIAN PEAKS FALL BIRD COUNT

Count day – September 18; Count period – September 11-26. Weather: cooler and more moisture than normal. Twenty-six observers, 13 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 72.5.

Double-crested Cormorant....1	Clark's Nutcracker ..... 48	Townsend's Warbler ..... 1
Turkey Vulture .....4	Black-billed Magpie..... 38	Wilson's Warbler ..... 23
Canada Goose .....4	American Crow ..... 150	Warbler species ..... 4
Mallard .....22	Common Raven..... 23	Western Tanager ..... 1
Common Merganser .....30	Horned Lark ..... 15	Green-tailed Towhee ..... 8
Osprey.....1	Violet-green Swallow ..... 20	Chipping Sparrow..... 20
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....3	Barn Swallow..... 20	Vesper Sparrow ..... 2
Cooper's Hawk.....3	Black-capped Chickadee.... 34	Fox Sparrow ..... 4
Red-tailed Hawk ..... 18	Mountain Chickadee ..... 298	Song Sparrow ..... 9
Golden Eagle .....2	Red-breasted Nuthatch..... 65	Lincoln's Sparrow ..... 13
American Kestrel.....3	White-breasted Nuthatch.... 33	White-crowned Sparrow.... 79
Blue Grouse .....3	Pygmy Nuthatch..... 92	Dark-eyed Junco..... 316
Rock Pigeon.....3	Brown Creeper ..... 19	White-winged..... (1)
Band-tailed Pigeon.....17	House Wren ..... 4	Pink-sided..... (1)
Great Horned Owl .....2	American Dipper..... 3	Gray-headed ..... (125)
Northern Saw-Whet Owl .....1	Golden-crowned Kinglet.... 71	Black-headed Grosbeak..... 1
Northern Pygmy-Owl .....1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet..... 35	Brewer's Blackbird..... 40
Broad-tailed Hummingbird...3	Western Bluebird ..... 6	Pine Grosbeak ..... 14
Belted Kingfisher.....5	Mountain Bluebird ..... 42	Cassin's Finch ..... 4
Red-naped Sapsucker.....1	Townsend's Solitaire..... 42	House Finch ..... 7
Downy Woodpecker .....9	Hermit Thrush..... 3	Red Crossbill ..... 87
Hairy Woodpecker.....25	American Robin ..... 190	Pine Siskin..... 242
Three-toed Woodpecker .....3	European Starling..... 2	Lesser Goldfinch ..... 4
Northern Flicker .....49	American Pipit ..... 69	American Goldfinch ..... 75
Gray Jay.....30	Orange-crowned Warbler.... 2	Evening Grosbeak ..... 3
Steller's Jay ..... 137	Virginia's Warbler ..... 2	House Sparrow ..... 35
Blue Jay .....1	Yellow-rumped Warbler .... 93	

Totals: 76 species plus 3 additional races; 2792 individuals; 38 individuals per count hour.

Participants: Barbara & Earl Bolton, Maggie Boswell, Diane Brown, George Coffee, Marty Dick, Lee & Virginia Evans, Kayala Evans, Mike Figgs, Beverly Gholson, Doug Gibney, Maddy Goldhawk, Dave Hallock, Susan Harris, Elaine Hill, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Dawn Kumkli, Nan Lederer, Cherie Long, Gary Matthews, Lisa McCoy, Mark Pscheid, Tom VanZandt, and Eric Zorawowicz.

## 2005 INDIAN PEAKS WINTER BIRD COUNT

Count day – January 15; Count period – December 15 – February 15. Weather: average winter. Thirty-nine observers, 13 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 68.75.

Canada Goose .....	18	Brown Creeper .....	10
Red-tailed Hawk .....	1	American Dipper.....	1
Golden Eagle.....	3	Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	2
White-tailed Ptarmigan .....	11	Townsend’s Solitaire .....	5
Northern Pygmy-Owl.....	2	European Starling .....	1
Northern Saw-Whet Owl .....	2	Bohemian Waxwing.....	37
Downy Woodpecker .....	7	Dark-eyed Junco .....	32
Hairy Woodpecker .....	27	Slate-colored .....	(4)
Northern Flicker.....	1	White-winged.....	(5)
Northern Shrike.....	1	Oregon.....	(3)
Gray Jay .....	10	Gray-headed.....	3
Steller’s Jay.....	133	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch.....	33
Clark’s Nutcracker .....	24	Hepburn’s.....	(2)
Black-billed Magpie .....	32	Brown-capped Rosy-Finch .....	5
American Crow .....	116	Pine Grosbeak .....	32
Common Raven .....	36	House finch .....	2
Black-capped Chickadee.....	26	Red Crossbill.....	25
Mountain Chickadee .....	376	Pine Siskin .....	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	29	Evening Grosbeak.....	40
White-breasted Nuthatch .....	36	House Sparrow.....	11
Pygmy Nuthatch.....	69		

Totals: 36 species plus 5 additional races; 1197 individuals; 17 individuals per count hour. Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Barbara & Earl Bolton, Maggie Boswell, Alex Brown, George Coffee, Andy Cowell, Todd Deininger, Don Dick, Sharon Dooley, Mike Figs, Fern Ford, Joyce Gellhorn, Peter Gent, Beverly Gholson, Kathy Gibson, Audrey Godell, Maddy Goldhawk, Paula Hansley, Susan Harris, Elaine Hill, Jim Holitza, Bill Kaempfer, Dawn Kumpli, Nan Lederer, Cherie Long, Gary Matthews, Lisa McCoy, Merle Miller, Naseem Munshi, Jean Pierre-Georges, Mark Pscheid, Bill Schmoker, Mike Tupper, John Vanderpoel, Tom VanZandt, Ruth Whirl, and Eric Zorawowicz,