

INDIAN PEAKS FOUR SEASON BIRD COUNTS

Fall 2005, Winter 2006

Newsletter

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Fall Count Summary

The fall count saw an average number of species and below average number of birds.

Fall Count Summary

Number of Species

2005 – 84

20-year Average – 83

Record High – 99 (1992)

Record Low – 70 (1996)

Number of Individuals

2005 – 30/count hour

20-year Average – 33/count hour

Record High – 48/count hour (1991)

Record Low – 25/count hour (1982, 83 & 93)

Good finds included eared grebe (1st Time on fall count; MP, LMc), red-breasted merganser (1st time first time on all counts; MP, LMc), white-throated swift (3rd time on fall count [2 of the 3 sightings are in the last 3 years]; MP, LMc), gray catbird (1st time on fall count; BB, CC), ovenbird (1st time on fall count; PH), and black-headed grosbeak (4th time on fall count [3 of the 4 sightings are in the last 4 years]; DH, DB).

Species normally seen that were not this year included green-winged teal (seen on 70% of previous fall counts), brown-capped rosy-finch, red crossbill (only 2nd time not observed on fall count), and evening grosbeak (seen on 80% of previous fall counts). No flycatchers were observed.

Several species had higher than normal numbers (2005 per count hour number/20-year average per count hour number), including blue grouse (.13/.07), gray jay (.41/.29), black-capped chickadee (.61/.38), ruby-crowned kinglet (.88/.59), yellow-rumped warbler (2.93/1.99),

Wilson's warbler (.82/.50), and house sparrow (.58/.19).

Winter Count Summary

The winter count continued the trend of low numbers of birds, which began last spring.

Winter Count Summary

Number of Species

2006 – 31

20-year Average – 36

Record High – 42 (1982)

Record Low – 28 (1998)

Number of Individuals

2006 – 15/count hour

20-year average – 18/count hour

Record High – 29/count hour (1999)

Record Low – 11/count hour (1998)

Several things might have contributed to the low numbers. The spring, breeding and fall counts of 2005, along with this winter count, were all lower in number than the previous year's corresponding count. We keep going back to the wet and cold breeding season of 2004 as a possible cause. Actual numbers of birds peaked in 2004, but there is evidence that their production during the breeding season of that year was very low.

It appears that there was a poor cone crop this winter. No red crossbills were observed, a first for the winter count, and none were seen on the fall count. Clark's nutcracker, red-breasted nuthatch, and pine grosbeak also had low counts. In fact, for the total of these four species, this was the lowest number ever for all four seasonal counts. This may have also contributed to no pine siskins being observed (only 2nd time missed on winter count).

Only 6 bohemian waxwings were observed. Sometimes their large flocks can greatly alter the winter count numbers.

The wind could have played a factor in detecting birds, particularly in the subalpine. All of the high elevation counts experienced high winds. The subalpine/alpine count areas saw a paltry 3 birds per count hour.

Mountain chickadees were down in number. Since they normally comprise 20%-25% of all birds seen on the winter count, their numbers alone can greatly influence totals. Their low numbers may have been a combination of lower production in 2004, poor food, and harder detection.

There were some good numbers, particularly from American robin. This was the highest winter count on record (3.81/count hour; previous high was 1.73/count hour in 2004). All were seen in the montane portion of the count circle. Townsend's solitaires were also in good number (.37/count hour; 20-year average of .22/count hour), and northern flickers were seen for only the fifth time on the winter count. While snow cover had been sporadic in the foothills and montane this past winter, all of the montane count reports indicated snow cover over 75%. Maybe there was a good crop of juniper berries.

Looking Ahead

Spring Count

Count Day – May 6

Count Period – May 1-14

Breeding Count

Count Day – June 17

Count Period – June 1 – July 15

Happy Birding,

Dave Hallock

2005 INDIAN PEAKS FALL BIRD COUNT

Count day – September 17; Count period – September 10-25. Weather: temperatures were warmer than normal; precipitation occurred on Sept. 13, 14, and 21-25. Twenty-seven observers; sixteen (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 97.25. Total party miles: 190.5.

Canada Goose.....	11	Williamson's Sapsucker.....	1	Gray Catbird.....	1
American Wigeon.....	2	Red-naped Sapsucker.....	1	European Starling.....	2
Mallard.....	33	Downy Woodpecker.....	10	American Pipit.....	51
Blue-winged Teal.....	12	Hairy Woodpecker.....	24	Orange-crowned Warbler.....	1
Ring-necked Duck.....	1	Three-toed Woodpecker.....	3	Yellow-rumped Warbler... 285	
Lesser Scaup.....	5	Northern Flicker.....	55	Townsend's Warbler.....	10
Common Merganser.....	11	Gray Jay.....	40	Ovenbird.....	1
Red-breasted Merganser.....	1	Steller's Jay.....	159	MacGillivray's Warbler.....	4
White-tailed Ptarmigan.....	1	Clark's Nutcracker.....	45	Wilson's Warbler.....	80
Blue Grouse.....	13	Black-billed Magpie.....	18	Green-tailed Towhee.....	13
Eared Grebe.....	5	American Crow.....	107	Chipping Sparrow.....	52
Double-crested Cormorant....	1	Common Raven.....	34	Vesper Sparrow.....	1
Great Blue Heron.....	1	Horned Lark.....	32	Fox Sparrow.....	6
Turkey Vulture.....	1	Barn Swallow.....	14	Song Sparrow.....	17
Osprey.....	3	Black-capped Chickadee....	59	Lincoln's Sparrow.....	30
Northern Harrier.....	1	Mountain Chickadee.....	395	White-crowned Sparrow....	81
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	29	Dark-eyed Junco.....	353
Cooper's Hawk.....	3	White-breasted Nuthatch....	29	(Pink-sided).....	(2)
Northern Goshawk.....	1	Pygmy Nuthatch.....	61	(Gray-headed).....	(276)
Red-tailed Hawk.....	11	Brown Creeper.....	20	Black-headed Grosbeak.....	1
American Kestrel.....	3	Rock Wren.....	2	Red-winged Blackbird.....	15
Falcon species.....	1	House Wren.....	5	Brewer's Blackbird.....	11
Wilson's Snipe.....	2	American Dipper.....	11	Pine Grosbeak.....	11
Rock Pigeon.....	3	Golden-crowned Kinglet....	61	Cassin's Finch.....	5
Band-tailed Pigeon.....	22	Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	86	House Finch.....	8
Mourning Dove.....	1	Mountain Bluebird.....	58	Pine Siskin.....	127
White-throated Swift.....	2	Townsend's Solitaire.....	20	Lesser Goldfinch.....	1
Broad-tailed Hummingbird...3		Hermit Thrush.....	3	House Sparrow.....	56
Belted Kingfisher.....	4	American Robin.....	186		

Totals: 84 species; 2950 individuals; 30 individuals per count hour. Participants: Bev Baker, Barbara & Earl Bolton, Alex & Gillian Brown, Diane Brown, George Coffee, Cindy Cornelius, Todd Deininger, Marty Dick, Kayla Evans, Mike Figgs, Kathy Gibson, Dave Hallock, Paula Hansley, Susan Harris, Jim Holitza, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Nan Lederer, Gary Matthews, Lisa McCoy, Carol Newman-Holitza, Merle Miller, Mark Pscheid, Richard Trinkner, Tom VanZandt.

2006 INDIAN PEAKS WINTER BIRD COUNT

Count day – January 7; Count period – December 15 – February 15. Twenty-five observers, 10 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 48.5; Total party miles: 136.0.

White-tailed Ptarmigan	8	Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	6
Blue Grouse	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	17
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	1	Pygmy Nuthatch.....	16
Red-tailed Hawk	1	Brown Creeper	2
Great Horned Owl.....	1	Townsend’s Solitaire	18
Downy Woodpecker	2	American Robin.....	185
Hairy Woodpecker	8	European Starling	2
Three-toed Woodpecker.....	1	Bohemian Waxwing.....	6
Northern Flicker.....	3	Dark-eyed Junco	21
Northern Shrike.....	1	(Pink-sided).....	(2)
Gray Jay	7	(Slate-colored)	(6)
Steller’s Jay.....	79	(Oregon).....	(4)
Clark’s Nutcracker	2	(Gray-headed)	(9)
Black-billed Magpie	13	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch.....	70
American Crow	38	Pine Grosbeak	1
Common Raven	14	House Finch	2
Black-capped Chickadee.....	20	House Sparrow.....	30
Mountain Chickadee	170		

Totals: 31 species plus 4 additional races; 746 individuals; 15 individuals per count hour.

Participants: Bev Baker, Maggie Boswell, George Coffee, Todd Deininger, Marty & Don Dick, Mike Figs, Laura Fisher, Joyce Gellhorn, Kathy Gibson, Audrey Godell, Jim Holitza, Bill Kaempfer, Steve Larson, Nan Lederer, Greg Massey, Lisa McCoy, Merle & Sally Miller, Carol Newman-Holitza, George Oetzel, Mark Pscheid, Caryl Shields, Tom VanZandt, and George Young.