

INDIAN PEAKS FOUR SEASON BIRD COUNTS

Fall 2006, Winter 2007

Newsletter

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Fall Count Summary

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

Fall Count Summary

Number of Species

2006 – 80

20-year Average – 83

Record High – 99 (1992)

Record Low – 70 (1996)

Number of Individuals

2006 – 34/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 spotted sandpiper (1st time on fall count; MP, LMc), winter wren (1st time on fall count; DB, DH), spotted towhee (3rd time on fall count; DB), bald eagle (2nd time on fall count; LA-G, J-PG, KE, MAF), and blue jay (5th time on fall count; MP, LMc, MD, LEI). The other sighting of bald eagle on the fall count was in 2003. It is likely that the recent nesting activity on the plains is paying us some dividends.

Species normally seen that were not this year included turkey vulture, blue grouse, rock wren, European starling, red-winged blackbird, Brewer's blackbird, brown-capped rosy-finch, and house finch.

Several species had higher than normal numbers (2006 per count hour number/20-year average per count hour number), including common merganser (.32/.04), hairy woodpecker (.29/.14), northern flicker (.75/.47), Steller's jay (2.56/1.65), Clark's nutcracker (1.34/.67), black-billed magpie (.61/.28), American crow (1.90/0.75), black-capped chickadee (.60/.38),

red-breasted nuthatch (2.06/.38), white-breasted nuthatch (.53/.22), and red crossbill (1.25/.63). Corvids and tree cone seedeaters dominated the increasers. A good cone crop on Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir played a role.

Several species had lower than normal numbers (2006 per count hour number/20-year average per count hour number), including band-tailed pigeon (.04/.45), horned lark (.03/.30), barn swallow (.01/.27), gray jay (.09/.29), chipping sparrow (.60/1.22), Lincoln's sparrow (.06/.21), dark-eyed junco (2.64/4.48), and pine siskin (.69/1.85). Some species appeared to leave earlier than normal.

Winter Count Summary

First, let me applaud all of you that made it out. It was hard to find a good day with little wind. Having said that, it was a pretty good winter count. The number of individuals was average, while the number of species was below average.

Winter Count Summary

Number of Species

2007 – 31

20-year Average – 36

Record High – 42 (1982)

Record Low – 28 (1998)

Number of Individuals

2007 – 17/count hour

20-year average – 18/count hour

Record High – 29/count hour (1999)

Record Low – 11/count hour (1998)

Those that managed to find a calm and mild day had good counts. The Ward North group (headed by Bill Keampfer) saw 20 species and over 300 birds. The Niwot Ridge group (Linda and Jean-Pierre Georges) had 16 species at high elevation.

Contributing to the average numbers was the cone crop on conifer trees and the birds it attracted. Clark's nutcrackers, red-breasted nuthatches, and red crossbills continued the higher than average numbers first seen in the fall. Pygmy nuthatches were also found in good number. Pine siskins rebounded from low numbers in the fall; they too, may have been responding to the abundant cone-crop.

There were no unusual finds, but under the conditions the two northern goshawks, two great horned owls, and two northern shrikes merit mention. Finding any flickers, robins or solitaires was good for this winter.

Dark-eyed juncos continued to be in low numbers, as observed in the fall. No bohemian waxwings were observed, nor were any rosy-finches.

Looking Ahead

Spring Count

Count Day – May 5

Count Period – May 1-14

Breeding Count

Count Day – June 16

Count Period – June 1 – July 15

Happy Birding,

Dave Hallock

2006 INDIAN PEAKS FALL BIRD COUNT

Count day – September 16; Count period – September 10-24. Twenty-eight observers; fifteen (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 77.0. Total party miles: 174.5.

American Wigeon.....4	Hairy Woodpecker..... 22	American Pipit..... 66
Mallard26	Three-toed Woodpecker..... 3	Orange-crowned Warbler 6
Green-winged Teal3	Northern Flicker..... 58	Yellow-rumped Warbler... 128
Ring-necked Duck2	Say's Phoebe..... 1	Townsend's Warbler 13
Common Merganser25	Vireo species..... 1	MacGillivray's Warbler 1
White-tailed Ptarmigan.....2	Gray Jay 7	Wilson's Warbler 58
Double-crested Cormorant.... 1	Steller's Jay 197	Warbler species 2
Osprey.....1	Blue Jay..... 4	Green-tailed Towhee 11
Bald Eagle2	Clark's Nutcracker 103	Spotted Towhee..... 1
Northern Harrier1	Black-billed Magpie..... 47	American Tree Sparrow 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....1	American Crow 146	Chipping Sparrow.....46
Cooper's Hawk.....1	Common Raven..... 40	Vesper Sparrow 3
Accipiter species.....1	Horned Lark..... 2	Fox Sparrow 4
Red-tailed Hawk7	Barn Swallow..... 1	Song Sparrow 8
Golden Eagle2	Black-capped Chickadee.... 46	Lincoln's Sparrow 5
American Kestrel1	Mountain Chickadee 359	White-crowned Sparrow.... 62
Prairie Falcon.....1	Red-breasted Nuthatch.... 159	Dark-eyed Junco.....203
American Coot.....1	White-breasted Nuthatch.... 41	(Oregon) (2)
Spotted Sandpiper.....2	Pygmy Nuthatch..... 40	(Gray-headed)..... (129)
Wilson's Snipe.....1	Brown Creeper..... 23	Common Grackle 1
Band-tailed Pigeon.....3	Winter Wren 2	Pine Grosbeak 7
Mourning Dove.....1	House Wren 5	Cassin's Finch 13
Great Horned Owl3	American Dipper..... 8	Red Crossbill96
Broad-tailed Hummingbird... 1	Golden-crowned Kinglet.... 59	Pine Siskin..... 53
Hummingbird species4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet..... 59	Lesser Goldfinch 1
Belted Kingfisher.....1	Mountain Bluebird 60	American Goldfinch 1
Williamson's Sapsucker 1	Townsend's Solitaire..... 34	House Sparrow 20
Red-naped Sapsucker.....3	Hermit Thrush 3	
Downy Woodpecker.....7	American Robin 173	

Totals: 80 species; 2624 individuals; 34 individuals per count hour. Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Barbara & Earl Bolton, John Brocklehurst, Diane Brown, George Coffee, Andy Cowell, Todd Deininger, Marty Dick, Sharon Dooley, Libby Ellis, Kayla Evans, Lee & Virginia Evans, Maryanne Flynn, Jean-Pierre Georges, Kathy Gibson, Dave Hallock, Paula Hansley, Jim Holitza, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Nan Lederer, Gary Matthews, Lisa McCoy, Carol Newman-Holitza, Mark Pscheid, and Tom VanZandt.

2007 INDIAN PEAKS WINTER BIRD COUNT

Count day – January 20; Count period – December 15 – February 15. Nineteen observers, 11 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 54.25.

White-tailed Ptarmigan	5	Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	42
Blue Grouse	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	13
Northern Goshawk.....	2	Pygmy Nuthatch.....	68
Red-tailed Hawk	1	Brown Creeper	6
Great Horned Owl.....	2	Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	5
Downy Woodpecker	3	Townsend’s Solitaire	10
Hairy Woodpecker	8	American Robin	7
Northern Flicker.....	3	Unidentified songbird	6
Woodpecker species.....	1	Dark-eyed Junco	25
Northern Shrike.....	2	(Slate-colored)	(2)
Gray Jay	6	(Oregon).....	(3)
Steller’s Jay.....	83	(Gray-headed)	(4)
Clark’s Nutcracker	28	Pine Grosbeak	17
Black-billed Magpie	18	Cassin’s Finch.....	1
American Crow	78	House Finch	1
Common Raven	17	Red Crossbill.....	79
Black-capped Chickadee.....	6	Pine Siskin	78
Mountain Chickadee	299	Evening Grosbeak.....	2

Totals: 31 species plus 3 additional races; 926 individuals; 17 individuals per count hour.

Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Alex Brown, Terry Cookro, Marty Dick, Libby Ellis, Mike Figgs, Laura Fisher, Jean-Pierre Georges, Kathy Gibson, Audrey Godell, Paula Hansley, Jim Holitza, Bill Kaempfer, Nan Lederer, Gary Matthews, Merle & Sally Miller, Carol Newman-Holitza, Mark Pscheid, and Tom Wilberding.