

INDIAN PEAKS FOUR SEASON BIRD COUNTS

Fall 2007, Winter 2008

Newsletter

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Fall Count Summary

The fall count saw above average number of species (tied for 2nd) and an average number of total birds.

Fall Count Summary

Number of Species

2007 – 92

25-year Average – 83

Record High – 99 (1992)

Record Low – 70 (1996)

Number of Individuals

2007 – 34/count hour

25-year Average – 34/count hour

Record High – 48/count hour (1991)

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

There were many good finds, including Swainson's thrush (3rd time on fall count; DH), spotted sandpiper (2nd time on fall count with the first time being 2006; MP, LMc), bald eagle (3rd time on fall count and all sightings have been since 2003; LA-G, J-PG), Western Wood-Pewee (2nd time on fall count; LA-G, J-PG), Western Scrub-Jay (1st time on fall count; LE), Nashville Warbler (1st time on fall count; LA-G, PH), Chestnut-sided Warbler (1st time on fall count (LA-G, J-PG), and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1st time on fall count (AG). The 6 browned-capped rosy-finches observed were the first ones since the year 200 on the fall count.

Species normally seen that were not this year included ring-necked duck and white-tailed ptarmigan.

American three-toed woodpecker had an all-time high count (8) for the fall; this is probably going to be the trend as beetles attack more of the forests in the count circle. Other species with good counts included great horned owl, hairy woodpecker, pygmy

nuthatch, golden-crowned kinglet, and Townsend's warbler. Tree-cone seed-eaters (crossbills, nutcrackers, red-breasted nuthatches, pine grosbeaks) continue to have high numbers, taking advantage of a good cone-crop that began in the summer of 2006.

The count effort was note-worthy. The 110.25 hours was the fifth time we cracked the century mark on the fall count and the first time since 1999. Thanks for the hard work!

Winter Count Summary

For the most part this was a below average count as number of species was well below average and number of individuals slightly below. None of the major factors contributing to a high winter count were present: only one flock of 25 Bohemian waxwings was observed and tree-cone seed-eaters are continuing the decline, as noted in the fall count summery. Robins, seen 68% of the time, were absent.

Winter Count Summary

Number of Species

2008 – 30

25-year Average – 36

Record High – 42 (1982)

Record Low – 28 (1998)

Number of Individuals

2008 – 16/count hour

25-year average – 18/count hour

Record High – 29/count hour (1999)

Record Low – 11/count hour (1998)

Contributing to the low species count was the absence of any hawks. Also missed were dusky grouse, golden-crowned kinglet, American robin, and evening grosbeak.

One good find, and a first for the winter count, was the observation of wild

turkeys in Eldora. It is probable they are getting hooked on being fed. But their presence in the community, particularly during a rather nasty winter, is odd.

BCNA Ecosystem Symposium

I am going to give a presentation about some of the findings of the Indian Peaks Bird Count at this year's BCNA Ecosystem Symposium. The presentation is called, "High Elevation Birds and Climate Change: Are These the Good Years?" The symposium is titled "The Beetles Are Coming" and is being held on Saturday, April 5 on the CU campus at the Ecology Department Ramaley Auditorium (just east of Norlin Library). The symposium begins at 8:30 AM and my presentation will be at 2:50 PM. You can find more information at www.bcna.org.

Looking Ahead

Spring Count

Count Day – May 3

Count Period – May 1-14

Breeding Count

Count Day – June 14

Count Period – June 1 – July 15

Happy Birding,

Dave Hallock

2007 INDIAN PEAKS FALL BIRD COUNT

Count day – September 15; Count period – September 8-23. Nineteen (of 25) areas covered.

Total party hours: 110.25. Total party miles: 204.5.

Mallard	76	Empidonax species.....	3	Yellow Warbler	4
Green-winged Teal	2	Warbling Vireo	1	Chestnut-sided Warbler.....	1
Common Merganser	4	Gray Jay	28	Yellow-rumped Warbler...	164
Duck species	8	Steller's Jay.....	161	Townsend's Warbler	29
Dusky Grouse	8	Western Scrub-Jay	1	MacGillivray's Warbler	4
Great Blue Heron.....	4	Pinyon Jay.....	47	Wilson's Warbler	67
Turkey Vulture	3	Clark's Nutcracker	106	Green-tailed Towhee	16
Osprey.....	3	Black-billed Magpie.....	61	Chipping Sparrow.....	97
Bald Eagle	1	American Crow	68	Vesper Sparrow	7
Northern Harrier	1	Common Raven.....	38	Fox Sparrow	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	2	Horned Lark.....	35	Song Sparrow	19
Cooper's Hawk.....	1	Tree Swallow	3	Lincoln's Sparrow	23
Northern Goshawk.....	3	Violet-green Swallow	1	White-crowned Sparrow.....	84
Accipiter species.....	1	Barn Swallow.....	19	Sparrow species.....	6
Swainson's Hawk	1	Black-capped Chickadee....	78	Dark-eyed Junco.....	498
Red-tailed Hawk	15	Mountain Chickadee	490	(Slate-colored).....	(18)
American Kestrel.....	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	77	(Pink-sided).....	(3)
Prairie Falcon.....	2	White-breasted Nuthatch....	55	(Gray-headed).....	(312)
Spotted Sandpiper.....	1	Pygmy Nuthatch.....	147	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Rock Pigeon.....	6	Brown Creeper	35	Black-headed Grosbeak.....	15
Band-tailed Pigeon.....	20	Rock Wren	2	Red-winged Blackbird.....	32
Mourning Dove.....	6	House Wren	11	Brewer's Blackbird.....	2
Great Horned Owl	4	American Dipper.....	5	Common Grackle	10
Broad-tailed Hummingbird.	11	Golden-crowned Kinglet..	110	Brown-capped Rosy-finch....	6
Belted Kingfisher.....	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	52	Pine Grosbeak	22
Williamson's Sapsucker	1	Mountain Bluebird	57	Cassin's Finch	33
Red-naped Sapsucker.....	4	Townsend's Solitaire.....	20	House Finch	17
Downy Woodpecker	13	Hermit Thrush.....	5	Red Crossbill	85
Hairy Woodpecker.....	29	American Robin	282	Pine Siskin.....	115
Three-toed Woodpecker	8	European Starling.....	9	Lesser Goldfinch	2
Northern Flicker	77	American Pipit	78	Evening Grosbeak	4
Western Wood-Pewee	3	Orange-crowned Warbler....	4	House Sparrow	6
Cordilleran Flycatcher	3	Nashville Warbler	4		
		Virginia's Warbler	1		

Totals: 92 species; 3776 individuals; 34 individuals per count hour.

2008 INDIAN PEAKS WINTER BIRD COUNT

Count day – January 29; Count period – December 15 – February 15. Twenty-five observers, 9 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 49.0.

White-tailed Ptarmigan	6	Brown Creeper	5
Wild Turkey	3	Townsend’s Solitaire	11
Downy Woodpecker	6	Bohemian Waxwing.....	25
Hairy Woodpecker	12	Dark-eyed Junco	60
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker.....	2	(White-winged)	(12)
Northern Flicker.....	1	(Slate-colored)	(9)
Northern Shrike.....	1	(Oregon).....	(12)
Gray Jay	4	(Pink-sided).....	(3)
Steller’s Jay	45	(Gray-headed)	(8)
Clark’s Nutcracker	13	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch.....	3
Black-billed Magpie	13	Rosy-Finch species	50
American Crow	61	Pine Grosbeak	10
Common Raven	26	Cassin’s Finch.....	3
Black-capped Chickadee.....	19	House Finch	5
Mountain Chickadee	282	Red Crossbill.....	18
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	20	Pine Siskin	17
White-breasted Nuthatch	25	House Sparrow.....	5
Pygmy Nuthatch.....	33		

Totals: 30 species plus 5 additional races; 784 individuals; 16 individuals per count hour.

Participants: Maggie Boswell, Alex Brown, Andy Cowell, Marty Dick, Libby Ellis, Mike Figgs, Joyce Gellhorn, Kathy Gibson, Audrey Godell, Paula Hansley, Elaine and Dave Hill, Jim Holitza, Bill Kaempfer, Chishun Kwong, Nan Lederer, Gary Matthews, Lisa McCoy, Merle & Sally Miller, Carol Newman-Holitza, Christian Nunes, Mark Pscheid, Tom VanZandt, and Tom Wilberding.