

# INDIAN PEAKS FOUR SEASON BIRD COUNTS

Fall 2008, Winter 2009

Newsletter

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## Fall Count Summary

The fall count saw below average number of species and below average number of total birds. The lateness of the count and a lower count effort probably contributed to these findings.

### Fall Count Summary

#### Number of Species

2008 - 73

Last Fall - 92

25-year Average - 83

Record High - 99 (1992)

Record Low - 70 (1996)

#### Number of Individuals

2008 - 31/count hour

Last Fall - 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 a few good finds. Ferruginous hawk was seen for the first time on the Fall Count. Clay-colored sparrow (3<sup>rd</sup> time), pinyon jay (7<sup>th</sup> time) and peregrine falcon (4<sup>th</sup> time) rounded out the unusual sightings.

Species normally seen that were not this year, and the list is long, included green-winged teal, ring-necked duck, white-tailed ptarmigan, rock dove, mourning dove, any flycatcher, house wren, European starling, MacGillivray's warbler, vesper sparrow, red-winged blackbird, Brewer's blackbird, and brown-capped rosy-finch.

American three-toed woodpecker had another good showing (6) for the fall; this is probably going to be the trend as beetles attack more of the forests in the count circle. Corvids had their best showing of any season since the fall of 2006. Tree-cone seed-eaters

(particularly red crossbill, Clark's nutcracker and red-breasted nuthatch) continue to have high numbers, taking advantage of a good cone-crop that began in the summer of 2006.

## Winter Count Summary

While number of species was slightly below average, total numbers of birds were high, almost a record. Numbers of pine siskins were at an all-time high for the winter. There were good numbers for Steller's jay, American crow, black-capped chickadee, dark-eyed junco, pine grosbeak and evening grosbeak. Townsend's solitaire and American robin were present. Tree-cone seed-eaters were in decent numbers. The sum of these parts added up to a good count.

### Winter Count Summary

#### Number of Species

2009 - 33

Last Winter - 30

25-year Average - 36

Record High - 42 (1982)

Record Low - 28 (1998)

#### Number of Individuals

2009 - 27/count hour

Last Winter - 16/count hour

25-year average - 18/count hour

Record High - 29/count hour (1999)

Record Low - 11/count hour (1998)

There were several good finds: Cooper's hawk (5<sup>th</sup> time on winter count; ToVZ, GC, KG, TiVZ, MP, LMc) and song sparrow (6<sup>th</sup> time; MP, LMc).

Several species generally seen that were not this year included blue grouse, golden-crowned kinglet, northern shrike, and Bohemian waxwing.

### **The Future of the IPBC**

This year is the 28<sup>th</sup> year of the count. My thought is to keep it going as a four-season count through the 30<sup>th</sup> year. After that, I am leaning towards dropping the spring and fall counts, and maybe even the winter, and just keep the summer count going. The mountain pine beetle epidemic will trigger an interesting change to the landscape, so it appears worthwhile keeping the summer count going to document some of the changes to the avian community.

Maybe the other counts will be more voluntary than now. I am guessing some of us will keep going out during the other seasons out of habit. The spring count generally provides better numbers of woodpeckers, which get quieter during the time of the breeding count. The fall count has the nicest weather, but I have not found much useful information.

Over the next several years think about it and give me some feedback on making some changes at the 30-year mark.

### **Looking Ahead**

#### **Spring Count**

Count Day – May 2

Count Period – May 1-14

#### **Breeding Count**

Count Day – June 20

Count Period – June 1 – July 15

Happy Birding,

Dave Hallock

## 2008 INDIAN PEAKS FALL BIRD COUNT

Count day – September 20; Count period – September 13-28. Thirteen (of 25) areas covered.  
 Total party hours: 75. Total party miles: 157.5.

Canada Goose .....	7	Northern Flicker .....	45	Orange-crowned Warbler .....	1
American Wigeon .....	2	Gray Jay .....	27	Yellow-rumped Warbler... ..	113
Mallard .....	25	Steller's Jay .....	163	Townsend's Warbler .....	4
Common Merganser .....	6	Pinyon Jay .....	4	Wilson's Warbler .....	41
Dusky Grouse .....	10	Clark's Nutcracker .....	63	Green-tailed Towhee .....	2
Turkey Vulture .....	1	Black-billed Magpie.....	28	Chipping Sparrow.....	58
Osprey.....	1	American Crow .....	74	Clay-colored Sparrow.....	3
Northern Harrier .....	2	Common Raven.....	49	Spizella species .....	30
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	1	Horned Lark.....	30	Fox Sparrow .....	2
Cooper's Hawk.....	3	Tree Swallow .....	12	Song Sparrow .....	6
Northern Goshawk.....	1	Violet-green Swallow .....	12	Lincoln's Sparrow .....	12
Red-tailed Hawk .....	21	Barn Swallow.....	4	White-crowned Sparrow.....	46
Ferruginous Hawk .....	1	Black-capped Chickadee....	33	Sparrow species.....	4
Golden Eagle .....	1	Mountain Chickadee .....	351	Dark-eyed Junco.....	196
American Kestrel .....	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	115	(Gray-headed).....	(105)
Peregrine Falcon .....	1	White-breasted Nuthatch....	50	Black-headed Grosbeak.....	2
Wilson's Snipe.....	2	Pygmy Nuthatch.....	52	Pine Grosbeak .....	3
Band-tailed Pigeon.....	50	Brown Creeper .....	29	Cassin's Finch .....	8
Great Horned Owl .....	4	American Dipper.....	2	House Finch .....	15
Broad-tailed Hummingbird...3		Golden-crowned Kinglet....	36	Red Crossbill .....	65
Belted Kingfisher.....	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	30	Pine Siskin.....	62
Williamson's Sapsucker .....	1	Mountain Bluebird .....	48	Lesser Goldfinch .....	1
Red-naped Sapsucker.....	2	Townsend's Solitaire.....	17	American Goldfinch .....	1
Downy Woodpecker .....	7	Hermit Thrush.....	1	Evening Grosbeak .....	5
Hairy Woodpecker.....	30	American Robin .....	137	House Sparrow .....	1
Three-toed Woodpecker .....	6	American Pipit .....	63		

Totals: 73 species; 2347 individuals; 31 individuals per count hour.

## 2009 INDIAN PEAKS WINTER BIRD COUNT

Count day – January 17; Count period – December 15 – February 15. Twenty-five observers, 9 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 40.5.

White-tailed Ptarmigan .....	2	Townsend’s Solitaire .....	17
Cooper’s Hawk .....	2	American Robin .....	22
Red-tailed Hawk .....	3	European Starling .....	9
Golden Eagle.....	1	Song Sparrow .....	2
Downy Woodpecker .....	4	Dark-eyed Junco .....	96
Hairy Woodpecker.....	10	(White-winged).....	(2)
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker.....	1	(Slate-colored) .....	(1)
Northern Flicker.....	1	(Pink-sided).....	(10)
Gray Jay .....	8	(Gray-headed) .....	(20)
Steller’s Jay.....	112	Red-winged Blackbird .....	3
Clark’s Nutcracker .....	21	Brown-capped Rosy-Finch .....	20
Black-billed Magpie .....	29	Rosy-Finch species .....	8
American Crow .....	86	Pine Grosbeak .....	28
Common Raven .....	20	Finch species.....	2
Black-capped Chickadee.....	34	House Finch .....	25
Mountain Chickadee .....	232	Red Crossbill.....	37
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	19	Pine Siskin .....	144
White-breasted Nuthatch .....	22	Evening Grosbeak.....	17
Pygmy Nuthatch.....	42	House Sparrow .....	30
Brown Creeper.....	1		

Totals: 33 species plus 4 additional races; 1,110 individuals; 27 individuals per count hour.

Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Alex Brown, George Coffee, Marty Dick, Todd Deininger, Libby Ellis, Mike Figgs, Kathy Gibson, Paula Hansley, Jim Holitza, Bill Kaempfer, Nan Lederer, Gary Matthews, Lisa McCoy, Merle Miller, Sally Miller, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Christian Nunes, Mark Pscheid, Joe Roller, Mike Tupper, Tineke Van Zandt, and Tom VanZandt.