

# INDIAN PEAKS FOUR SEASON BIRD COUNTS

Fall 1999; Winter 2000

Newsletter

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## Fall Count Summary

This was a replay of last fall. Again, the highlight was the weather: warmer and milder than normal.

Overall, it was a slightly above average count. The number of species was eleven higher than the 15-year average, but only five more than the average of the past

### Fall Count Summary

Number of Species - 92  
(15 Year Average - 81)  
Individuals - 35 per hour  
(15 Year Average - 32)

six years. The total number of birds seen, on a per-count-hour basis, was three above the 15-year average, but equal to the experience of more recent counts.

Good finds include merlin (2<sup>nd</sup> time on Fall Count, MG, GC, SS, PH), double-crested cormorant (5<sup>th</sup> time, MP, LI, LM), blue-winged teal (5<sup>th</sup> time, NM, MT), common nighthawk (3<sup>rd</sup> time, DB), Lewis's woodpecker (4<sup>th</sup> time, NM, MT), dusky flycatcher (4<sup>th</sup> time, NM, MT), and Brewer's sparrow (4<sup>th</sup> time, DH).

Species with higher than average counts included hairy woodpecker, three-toed woodpecker, barn swallow, Clark's nutcracker, black-capped chickadee, crown creeper, golden-crowned kinglet and pine grosbeak.

As usual, the Fall Count produced good numbers of waterfowl and hawks. There were average numbers of corvids.

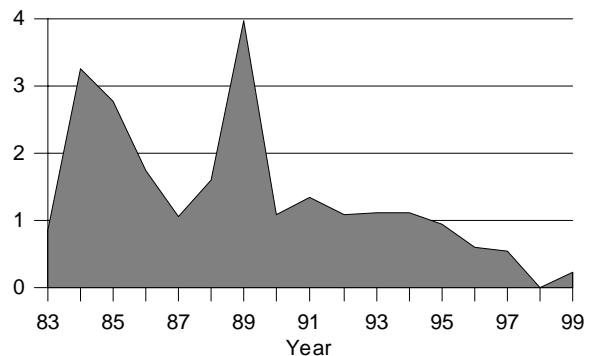
Cone seed-eaters made a good showing (2.04/hour). Leading the way were Clark's nutcrackers, red-breasted nuthatches

and pine grosbeaks. However, red crossbills were present in low numbers.

Several species normally observed on the Fall Count were absent or missed including brown-capped rosy-finch and evening grosbeak. The grosbeaks continue to be almost absent from the count circle in recent years; this was the second straight fall

## EVENING GROSBEAKS

Annual Totals - # Per Count Hour



they were absent and only one has been observed on the last four Fall Counts.

## Winter Count Summary

On the surface the numbers indicate that it was a fairly average winter count. Both the total numbers of birds and species seen were at the historic average. But the composition of the count was different, as there were all-time winter highs for a number of species while others were absent or below average.

### Winter Count Summary

Number of Species - 37  
(15 Year Average - 37)  
Individuals - 18 per hour  
(15 Year Average - 18)

The early mild winter may have influenced the avian community. There were high numbers of downy woodpecker (.20/count hour; previous winter high .08), black-billed magpie (.60/count hour; previous winter high .34), black-capped chickadee (1.07/count hour; previous winter high .53), white-breasted nuthatch (.52/count hour; previous winter high .32), dark-eyed junco (2.82/count hour; previous winter high 1.09), and house sparrow (1.02/count hour; previous winter high .31). Other signs of a mild winter include the presence of red-winged blackbird, American robin, Townsend's solitaire, European starling, Virginia rail, ruby-crowned kinglet and American goldfinch.

To offset the high counts of some species was the absence, or low counts of others. Evening grosbeaks continued their absence from the count circle. Bohemian waxwings and gray-crowned rosy finches also failed to make appearances. Making lower than average counts included pygmy nuthatch (.19/count hour; average of .57), red-breasted nuthatch (.16/count hour; average of .47) and mountain chickadee (4.34/count hour; average of 5.31). Cone seed-eaters, which made a good showing in the fall, dropped back down.

There were some good finds this winter. A winter count first, Virginia rail, was seen on the Arapaho Ranch (NM, MT, RG). Other good finds include Cooper's hawk (4<sup>th</sup> time, JH, CN-H, M&SM), ruby-crowned kinglet (2<sup>nd</sup> time, BB, PM) white-

throated sparrow (3<sup>rd</sup> time, BB, LA-G, ML, AG, NS), and American goldfinch (2<sup>nd</sup> time, MP, LM).

### Online

Just a reminder that Indian Peaks Bird Count results are now posted on the Boulder County Nature Association (BCNA) web site ([www.bcna.org](http://www.bcna.org)) under Publications & Research. Also found on the BCNA web site is the IPBC 15 year summary, as well as the Boulder County avian species of special concern report. As usual, Randy Gietzen has put in countless hours toward developing and maintaining the site.

### Looking Ahead

#### Next Counts

##### Spring

Count Day - May 6

Count Period - May 1 - May 14

##### Breeding

Count Day - June 17

Count Period - June 1 - July 15th

Remember, spring counts go to Bill Kaempfer and breeding counts are sent to me.

Happy Birding,  
Dave Hallock

## 1999 INDIAN PEAKS FALL BIRD COUNT

Count day - September 18; Count period - September 11-26. Weather: warmer and milder than normal.  
 Thirty-four observers; 19 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 112.

Double-crested Cormorant	1	Horned Lark	22
Great Blue Heron	1	Tree Swallow	4
Turkey Vulture	2	Violet-green Swallow	20
American Wigeon	2	Barn Swallow	53
Mallard	51	Black-capped Chickadee	100
Blue-winged Teal	2	Mountain Chickadee	462
Green-winged Teal	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	67
Teal species	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	36
Ring-necked Duck	16	Pygmy Nuthatch	31
Lesser Scaup	4	Brown Creeper	41
Common Merganser	4	Rock Wren	1
Osprey	1	House Wren	9
Northern Harrier	1	American Dipper	9
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Golden-crowned Kinglet	73
Cooper's Hawk	4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	61
Northern Goshawk	2	Mountain Bluebird	96
Accipiter species	3	Townsend's Solitaire	43
Red-tailed Hawk	17	Swainson's Thrush	2
Golden Eagle	2	Hermit Thrush	5
American Kestrel	7	American Robin	344
Merlin	1	European Starling	18
Prairie Falcon	1	American Pipit	56
White-tailed Ptarmigan	3	Orange-crowned Warbler	4
Blue Grouse	11	Virginia's Warbler	1
California Gull	1	Yellow Warbler	2
Band-tailed Pigeon	95	Yellow-rumped Warbler	265
Mourning Dove	1	Townsend's Warbler	7
Great Horned Owl	1	MacGillivray's Warbler	6
Common Nighthawk	1	Wilson's Warbler	74
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	5	Green-tailed Towhee	12
Belted Kingfisher	7	Chipping Sparrow	107
Lewis's Woodpecker	1	Brewer's Sparrow	1
Williamson's Sapsucker	2	Vesper Sparrow	3
Red-naped Sapsucker	5	Fox Sparrow	3
Downy Woodpecker	7	Song Sparrow	12
Hairy Woodpecker	31	Lincoln's Sparrow	53
Three-toed Woodpecker	5	White-crowned Sparrow	98
Northern Flicker	60	Sparrow species	117
Dusky Flycatcher	4	Gray-headed Junco	463
Cordilleran Flycatcher	4	Red-winged Blackbird	26
Empidonax species	1	Brewer's Blackbird	12
Say's Phoebe	1	Pine Grosbeak	41
Gray Jay	34	Cassin's Finch	2
Steller's Jay	179	Red Crossbill	18
Clark's Nutcracker	103	Pine Siskin	100
Black-billed Magpie	49	Lesser Goldfinch	1
American Crow	76	American Goldfinch	5
Common Raven	39	House Sparrow	25

Totals: 92 species; 3870 individuals; 35 individuals per count hour. Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Diane Brown, George Coffee, Tom Delaney, Marty Dick, Lee & Virginia Evans, Jean-Pierre Georges, Beverly Gholson, Kathy Gibson, Audrey Godell, Maddy Goldhawk, Dave Hallock, Paula Hansley, Elaine Hill, Jim Holitza, Lynne Ihlstrom, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Dawn Kumli, Nan Lederer, Cherie Long, Gary Mathews, Lisa McCoy, Merle & Sally Miller, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Mark Pscheid, Scott Sievers, Heather Throop, Michael Tupper, Tom VanZandt

## 2000 INDIAN PEAKS WINTER BIRD COUNT

Count day - January 15; Count period - December 15 - February 20. Weather: early winter was warmer and milder than usual with less precipitation. Late winter was more seasonal. Thirty observers, 12 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 69.

Cooper's Hawk	1	Brown Creeper	7
Red-tailed Hawk	4	American Dipper	2
White-tailed Ptarmigan	14	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Virginia Rail	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Great Horned Owl	1	Townsend's Solitaire	5
Downy Woodpecker	14	American Robin	5
Hairy Woodpecker	14	European Starling	20
Three-toed Woodpecker	5	American Tree Sparrow	7
Northern Flicker	1	White-throated Sparrow	1
Northern Shrike	2	Dark-eyed Junco	194
Gray Jay	13	White-winged Junco	(21)
Steller's Jay	90	Slate-colored Junco	(66)
Clark's Nutcracker	15	Oregon Junco	(20)
Black-billed Magpie	41	Gray-headed Junco	(36)
American Crow	82	Red-winged Blackbird	45
Common Raven	33	Pine Grosbeak	11
Black-capped Chickadee	74	Red Crossbill	26
Mountain Chickadee	299	Pine Siskin	44
Red-breasted Nuthatch	11	American Goldfinch	42
White-breasted Nuthatch	36	House Sparrow	70
Pygmy Nuthatch	13		

Totals: 37 species plus 4 additional races; 1246 individuals; 18 individuals per count hour. Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Andy Cowell, Ruth Carol Cushman, Marty Dick, Mike Figgs, Jean-Pierre Georges, Randy Gietzen, Audrey Godell, Maddy Goldhawk, Paula Hansley, Susan Harris, Elaine Hill, Jim Holitza, Bill Kaempfer, Dawn Kummler, Margy Lanham, Nan Lederer, Cherie Long, Lisa McCoy, Merle & Sally Miller, Paul Mintier, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Mark Pscheid, Nina Seevers, Michael Tupper, John Vanderpoel, David Waltman.