

# INDIAN PEAKS FOUR SEASON BIRD COUNTS

*Fall 1998, Winter 1999*

*Newsletter*

*Vol.17 No.4, Vol.18 No.1*

---

## **Fall Count Summary**

The highlight of the Fall Count was the weather. It was one of the warmest falls on record. The aspen were slow in turning color. But they finally did and lingered well into November.

Other than that it was an average count. The number of species was slightly above average and total number of birds also

<p><b>Fall Count Summary</b> Number of Species - 88 (Average - 86) Individuals - 37 per Hour (Average - 34)</p>
---

slightly above average.

Good finds included Double-crested Cormorant (5<sup>th</sup> time, MI,JB), Redhead (3<sup>rd</sup> time, MI,JB), Rough-legged Hawk (3<sup>rd</sup> time, JH,CN-H,M&SM), Common Nighthawk (2<sup>nd</sup> time, L&VE), Eastern Bluebird (1<sup>st</sup> time, L&VE) and Pinyon Jay (5<sup>th</sup> time, L&VE). Only one Pinyon Jay was observed, again going counter to the belief that there is no such thing as seeing only one of them at a time.

As usual, the Fall Count produced good numbers of waterfowl and hawks. There were high numbers of corvids (5.31/hour vs. average of 3.86/hour), particularly Gray Jays, Clark's Nutcrackers and Magpies.

There were also good numbers of seed-eaters: 2.61/hour. In the history of the count, only four times (out of 67 counts) had the number of seed-eaters been greater than 3 per hour; above 2 is a good count. Leading the way were Clark's Nutcrackers, found throughout the count circle, and Red

Crossbills which were primarily observed in the subalpine areas.

Several species normally observed on the Fall Count were absent or missed including Northern Goshawk, Common Snipe, gulls, Williamson's Sapsucker, flycatchers and Evening Grosbeak. For the grosbeaks, this is only the second time on the Fall Count they have not been observed.

## **Winter Count Summary**

The Winter Count saw a large influx of Bohemian Waxwings, some moderate increases in species that wandered up from the foothills because of the mild weather, and low numbers for many resident forest birds. The high numbers of seed-eaters that seemed possible in the fall never materialized.

<p><b>Winter Count Summary</b> Number of Species - 36 (Average - 37) Individuals - 29 per Hour (Average - 18)</p>
---

Numerically, this was the highest number of birds per count hour for the winter. The obvious reason was the influx of Bohemian Waxwings which included an estimated 1,000 for the Ward South area. This was the highest number of waxwings per count hour for all the winter counts. Other significant influxes occurred in 1984, 1987, and 1996.

The mild weather probably influenced the higher than normal numbers of a few species, including: Townsend's Solitaire (.73/hour, average of .18/hour); American Robin (.38/hour, average of .20/hour); and

Dark-eyed Junco (.93/hour, average of .46/hour). Obviously the mild weather contributed to the presence of the waxwings in the count area by allowing food sources from low-growing shrubs to be free from any snow cover.

However, it was a rather poor count for many of the resident species. Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet all had below average counts. Only 1 accipiter was observed. Pine Siskins were well below average (.03/hour, average of .62/hour). Cone seed-eaters made an overall poor showing as illustrated by only 5 Red Crossbills being seen.

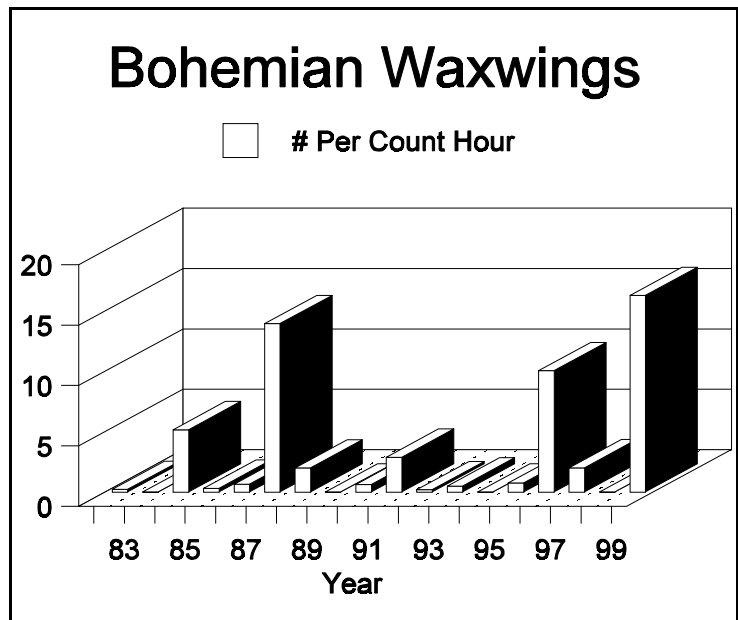
For Evening Grosbeaks, we should be delighted with the number seen (.21/hour). None were observed last winter. However, this is still well below the historic average (.81/hour).

There were some good finds. An American Kestrel was seen for the first time on the winter count (Observers: CL,EH,DK,MG,BG). This is probably another indication of the mild weather. Other good finds included: Northern Pygmy-Owl (2<sup>nd</sup> time, CL,EH,DK,MG,BG); Belted Kingfisher (4<sup>th</sup> time, NM,MT); and Brown Thrasher (4<sup>th</sup> time, AG,BP,B&EB). American Dippers and Red-winged Blackbirds were also observed. Both species are seen about half the time on the winter count.

Several species not seen which are normally observed 50% of the time or greater included Red-tailed Hawk, Blue Grouse and Northern Shrike.

### Going Online

We are going to start posting this newsletter in the BCNA homepage (with a big thanks to Randy Gietzen). The current address is: <http://www.csn.net/~randyg/bcna.html> (the address may be changing in the next few weeks). Those of you who would be satisfied to get the count summary information via the Web, let me know. The newsletter generally comes out twice a year, a fall/winter issue and a spring/breeding issue. Put a note on your spring or breeding count forms if you



would like to use the Web to get the results. It saves some paper and postage.

### Looking Ahead

#### Next Counts

#### Spring

Count Day - May 8

Count Period - May 1-16

#### Breeding

Count Day - June 12

Period - June 1- July 15

Remember, spring counts go to Bill and breeding counts come to me.

Happy Birding  
Dave Hallock

## 1998 INDIAN PEAKS FALL BIRD COUNT

Count day - September 19; Count period - September 13-27. Weather: warmer and milder than usual. Twenty-nine observers, 15 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 98.67.

Double-crested Cormorant	3	Mountain Chickadee	543
Great Blue Heron	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	26
Turkey Vulture	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	15
American Wigeon	3	Pygmy Nuthatch	13
Mallard	53	Brown Creeper	23
Green-winged Teal	9	Rock Wren	2
Redhead	1	House Wren	6
Ring-necked Duck	4	American Dipper	6
Common Merganser	8	Golden-crowned Kinglet	42
Osprey	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	30
Northern Harrier	1	Eastern Bluebird	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Mountain Bluebird	90
Cooper's Hawk	3	Townsend's Solitaire	68
Accipiter species	6	Swainson's Thrush	3
Red-tailed Hawk	20	Hermit Thrush	3
Rough-legged Hawk	1	American Robin	264
Buteo species	1	European Starling	1
Golden Eagle	3	American Pipit	105
American Kestrel	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	12
Prairie Falcon	1	Virginia's Warbler	1
White-tailed Ptarmigan	4	Yellow-rumped Warbler	207
Blue Grouse	12	Townsend's Warbler	9
Rock Dove	1	MacGillivray's Warbler	8
Band-tailed Pigeon	68	Wilson's Warbler	76
Mourning Dove	2	Green-tailed Towhee	6
Great Horned Owl	1	Chipping Sparrow	155
Common Nighthawk	1	Vesper Sparrow	3
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1	Fox Sparrow	9
Belted Kingfisher	2	Song Sparrow	13
Red-naped Sapsucker	3	Lincoln's Sparrow	29
Downy Woodpecker	5	White-crowned Sparrow	155
Hairy Woodpecker	14	Dark-eyed Junco	365
Three-toed Woodpecker	1	Slate-colored	(2)
Northern Flicker	59	Oregon	(2)
Warbling Vireo	2	Gray-headed	(359)
Gray Jay	41	Red-winged Blackbird	53
Steller's Jay	205	Brewer's Blackbird	21
Pinyon Jay	1	Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	5
Clark's Nutcracker	107	Pine Grosbeak	26
Black-billed Magpie	46	Cassin's Finch	4
American Crow	78	House Finch	22
Common Raven	46	Red Crossbill	99
Horned Lark	34	Pine Siskin	119
Violet-green Swallow	3	Lesser Goldfinch	1
Barn Swallow	28	House Sparrow	60
Black-capped Chickadee	65		

Totals: 88 species plus 3 additional races; 3655 individuals; 37 individuals per count hour. Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Jay Berger, Barbara & Earl Bolton, Diane Brown, Andy Cowell, Carol Cushman, Don & Marty Dick, Lee & Virginia Evans, Fern Ford, Kathy Gibson, Maddy Goldhawk, Dave Hallock, Paula Hansley, Elaine Hill, Jim Holitza, Maureen Ivy, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Dawn Kumml, Nan Lederer, Merle & Sally Miller, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Jan Stogsdill..

## 1999 INDIAN PEAKS WINTER BIRD COUNT

Count day - January 16<sup>th</sup>; Count period - December 15<sup>th</sup> to February 15<sup>th</sup>. Weather: warmer and less precipitation than usual, more wind than normal. Thirty-two observers, 13 of 25 areas covered. Total party hours: 71.25.

Accipiter species	1	Pygmy Nuthatch	27
Rough-legged Hawk	1	Brown Creeper	5
Golden Eagle	2	American Dipper	3
American Kestrel	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	8
White-tailed Ptarmigan	5	Townsend's Solitaire	52
Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	American Robin	27
Belted Kingfisher	2	Brown Thrasher	1
Downy Woodpecker	6	Bohemian Waxwing	1160
Hairy Woodpecker	11	American Tree Sparrow	2
Three-toed Woodpecker	2	Dark-eyed Junco	66
Gray Jay	16	White-winged	(2)
Steller's Jay	74	Slate-colored	(9)
Clark's Nutcracker	13	Oregon	(6)
Black-billed Magpie	23	Gray-headed	(4)
American Crow	55	Red-winged Blackbird	9
Common Raven	19	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	50
Black-capped Chickadee	21	Pine Grosbeak	20
Mountain Chickadee	310	Red Crossbill	5
Red-breasted Nuthatch	23	Pine Siskin	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	17	Evening Grosbeak	15

Totals: 36 species plus 4 additional races; 2055 individuals; 29 individuals per count hour.

Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Barbara & Earl Bolton, Alex Brown, George Coffee, Willson Crumpacker, Don & Marty Dick, Mike Figgs, Beverly Gholson, Kathy Gibson, Randy Gietzen, Maddy Goldhawk, Audrey Goodell, Susan Harris, Elaine Hill, Jim Holitza, Bill Kaempfer, Dawn Kumli, Nan Lederer, Cherie Long, Gary Mathews, Merle & Sally Miller, Paul Mintier, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Betsy Phillips, Richard Trinkner, Michael Tupper, Tom VanZandt.