

INDIAN PEAKS FOUR SEASON BIRD COUNTS

Spring, Summer 2000

Newsletter

Vol.19 Nos. 2 & 3

Spring Count Summary

Number of Species - 93

(Average - 82)

Individuals - 35 per Hour

(Average - 36)

Spring Count Summary

The Spring Count results reflected the mild weather, with many early arrivals and some high seasonal counts. Overall numbers were average, while the number of species observed was above average.

Some early arrivals (followed by observer's initials) included: dusky flycatcher (5th time out of 18 Spring Counts - DH, JH, CN-H, M&SM, MF, NL), Wilson's warbler (4th time - MF, NL), western tanager (1st time - CL, EH, DK, MG, BG), and black-headed grosbeak (4th time - MP, LI, LM). Other good finds were: American wigeon (4th time - LA-G, UQ), northern shoveler (5th time - MP, LI, LM), canvasback (1st time - LA-G, UQ), redhead (3rd time - LA-G, UQ), lesser scaup (3rd time - MP, LI, LM, JH, CN-H, M&SM), lesser yellowlegs (1st time - D&MD, SH), northern saw-whet owl (2nd time - DH), spotted towhee (5th time - KG, JL, FF, RS, EZ, JS), and western meadowlark (5th time - MP, LI, LM).

There were all-time high spring count numbers for broad-tailed hummingbird, ruby-crowned kinglet and Lincoln's sparrow; signs of the mild weather. Eleven turkey vultures were observed, almost double the previous high.

Woodpeckers were seen in just over half their normal spring numbers. My take on this is they had gotten into their breeding cycle earlier than normal and were less conspicuous during the count period.

No northern goshawks were observed. The spring count is normally one of their main times for being seen. They have gone undetected on 5 of the last 7 Indian Peaks counts.

Breeding Count Summary

Number of Species - 109

(Average - 98)

Individuals - 44 per Hour

(Average - 42)

Breeding Count Summary

I think most participants would agree, the Breeding Count was a very good time. The dry and warm weather allowed for the birds to get right into the swing of things and gave us an opportunity to have a most productive day of birding, even at the highest elevations. The 109 species observed ties for the all-time high. And there was a general trend of the warm weather causing an upward movement for some species: yellow warblers were seen near Brainard Lake (they are rarely found above 9,000'); there were greater numbers of turkey vultures and rock wrens; and there were sightings of Bullock's oriole, Brewer's sparrow and eastern kingbird. Mike Figgs observed western scrub-jay, pygmy nuthatch and an orange-crowned warbler in the krummholz and tree-line willows. Some of these sightings are vagrants, or post-breeding upward movements. But it may also be a harbinger of things to come if climatic warming trends continue.

There were 4 first-time and 3 second-time sightings for the Breeding Count. Good finds (followed by observer's initials) included: western grebe (1st time out of 19 breeding counts - MP, LI, LM), double-crested cormorant (2nd time - BB, LA-G, I&AG, J-PG, MP, LI, LM), common merganser (4th time - MP, LI, LM), bald eagle (1st time - BB, LA-G, I&AG, J-PG), eastern kingbird (5th time - L&VE), western scrub-jay (1st time - MF), winter wren (2nd time - LA-G, MF), orange-crowned warbler (2nd time - DH, MF, NL), Brewer's sparrow (3rd time - DH), and Bullocks oriole (1st time - NM, MT).

Several species had better than average numbers, including: turkey vulture, white-tailed ptarmigan, gray jay (.22/hour, historic average of .11/hour), Clark's nutcracker (.58/hour, historic average of .25/hour), rock wren (.19/hour, historic average of .08/hour), golden-crowned kinglet (.66/hour, historic average of .13/hour) and white-crowned sparrow (2.39/hour, historic average of 1.52/hour). Beside good numbers of turkey vultures, birds-of-prey were well represented with 3 osprey, 1 bald eagle, 6 accipiters and 2 golden eagles.

Some species making a poor showing, with less than half their average numbers found, included green-winged teal, ring-necked duck, western tanager, green-tailed towhee and brown-headed cowbird. Common nighthawk and evening grosbeak were not found.

Other critters were observed while we were out and about. The most common reported included elk, mule deer, pine squirrel, chipmunk, pika, marmot, golden-mantled ground-squirrel, snow shoe hare, Nuttall's cottontail, and red fox. Paula Hansley and Terry Cookro observed a pine marten near treeline above Rainbow Lakes. And Steve Jones found himself being counted by a curious short-tailed weasel near 4th of July campground.

Looking Ahead

Next Counts

Fall

Count Day - September 17th
Count Period - September 9 - 24

Winter

Count Day - January 6th
Count Period - Dec. 15th - Feb. 15th

Remember, Fall Counts are sent to Bill Kaempfer and Winter Counts are sent to me in AZ.

Fall Count Compilation Get-Together

We will continue the revived tradition of the fall get-together. It will be on count day, Sunday Sept. 17th, starting around 3 p.m. at our home in Eldora (2478 Eldora Rd). The fare is comprised of leftovers from the day's field work. In today's genre it is called "extreme pot-luck." Diane and I will supplement with a few other goodies. Give me a call if you plan on coming or need further directions (303-258-3672). Easiest parking is across the road from our driveway.

Happy Birding
Dave Hallock

2000 INDIAN PEAKS SPRING BIRD COUNT

Count day - May 6; Count period - May 1 - 14. Weather: warmer and milder than normal. Thirty-five observers, 15 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 89.

Great Blue Heron	1	Downy Woodpecker	12	European Starling	20
Turkey Vulture	11	Hairy Woodpecker	22	American Pipit	29
Canada Goose	1	Three-toed Woodpecker	2	Orange-crowned Warbler	1
American Wigeon	2	Northern Flicker	70	Yellow-rumped Warbler	153
Mallard	57	Dusky Flycatcher	4	Wilson's Warbler	3
Cinnamon Teal	2	Gray Jay	8	Western Tanager	1
Northern Shoveler	3	Steller's Jay	115	Green-tailed Towhee	16
Green-winged Teal	4	Clark's Nutcracker	18	Spotted Towhee	1
Canvasback	2	Black-billed Magpie	24	Chipping Sparrow	39
Redhead	2	American Crow	78	Vesper Sparrow	3
Ring-necked Duck	21	Common Raven	30	Fox Sparrow	17
Lesser Scaup	3	Horned Lark	20	Song Sparrow	18
Osprey	4	Tree Swallow	84	Lincoln's Sparrow	22
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Violet-green Swallow	57	White-crowned Sparrow	14
Cooper's Hawk	4	Barn Swallow	39	Gray-headed Junco	387
<i>Accipiter</i> species	1	Black-capped Chickadee	44	Black-headed Grosbeak	1
Swainson's Hawk	1	Mountain Chickadee	331	Red-winged Blackbird	44
Red-tailed Hawk	18	Red-breasted Nuthatch	39	Western Meadowlark	1
Golden Eagle	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	19	Brewer's Blackbird	90
American Kestrel	3	Pygmy Nuthatch	17	Common Grackle	8
White-tailed Ptarmigan	4	Brown Creeper	9	Brown-headed Cowbird	59
Blue Grouse	3	Rock Wren	2	Brown-capped Rosy Finch	30
Killdeer	5	House Wren	25	Pine Grosbeak	8
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	American Dipper	7	Cassin's Finch	42
Spotted Sandpiper	4	Golden-crowned Kinglet	36	House Finch	1
Common Snipe	8	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	270	Red Crossbill	8
Band-tailed Pigeon	21	Western Bluebird	1	Pine Siskin	61
Mourning Dove	15	Mountain Bluebird	32	American Goldfinch	4
Great Horned Owl	1	Townsend's Solitaire	100	House Sparrow	7
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	Hermit Thrush	3		
White-throated Swift	4	American Robin	198		
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	100				
Williamson's Sapsucker	5				
Red-naped Sapsucker	21				

Totals: 93 species; 3143 individuals; 35 individuals per count hour.

Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Barbara & Earl Bolton, Diane Brown, Joan Clifford, Cindy Cornelius, Don & Marty Dick, Gene Dilworth, Mike Figgs, Fern Ford, Beverly Gholson, Kathy Gibson, Maddy Goldhawk, Dave Hallock, Susan Harris, Elaine Hill, Jim Holitza, Lynne Ihlstrom, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Dawn Kumpli, Margy Lanham, Nan Lederer, Cherie Long, Lisa McCoy, Merle & Sally Miller, Carol Newman-Holitza, Mark Pscheid, Ursula Quiller, Rene Seguin, Jan Stogsdill, Eric Zorawowick.

2000 INDIAN PEAKS BREEDING BIRD COUNT

Count day - June 17; Count period - June 1 - July 15. Weather: warmer and milder than normal.
 Thirty-eight observers, 23 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 157.5.

Western Grebe	3	Western Wood-Pewee	19	Mountain Bluebird	70
Double-crested Cormorant . . .	6	Hammond's Flycatcher	9	Townsend's Solitaire	45
Great Blue Heron	1	Dusky Flycatcher	79	Swainson's Thrush	26
Turkey Vulture	8	Cordilleran Flycatcher	69	Hermit Thrush	179
Mallard	64	<i>Empidonax</i> species	11	American Robin	494
Cinnamon Teal	2	Say's Phoebe	1	European Starling	6
Green-winged Teal	5	Eastern Kingbird	1	American Pipit	218
Ring-necked Duck	11	Plumbeous Vireo	1	Orange-crowned Warbler . . .	2
Common Merganser	2	Warbling Vireo	221	Virginia's Warbler	2
Osprey	3	Gray Jay	35	Yellow Warbler	18
Bald Eagle	1	Steller's Jay	87	Yellow-rumped Warbler . .	436
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Blue Jay	1	MacGillivray's Warbler . . .	31
Cooper's Hawk	2	Western Scrub-Jay	1	Wilson's Warbler	258
Northern Goshawk	2	Clark's Nutcracker	91	Warbler species	1
Red-tailed Hawk	9	Black-billed Magpie	25	Western Tanager	18
Golden Eagle	2	American Crow	56	Green-tailed Towhee	34
American Kestrel	1	Common Raven	31	Chipping Sparrow	61
White-tailed Ptarmigan	13	Horned Lark	59	Brewer's Sparrow	2
Blue Grouse	6	Tree Swallow	115	Vesper Sparrow	5
Sora	2	Violet-green Swallow	112	Savannah Sparrow	2
Killdeer	3	N. Rough-winged Swallow . .	8	Fox Sparrow	45
Spotted Sandpiper	22	Cliff Swallow	21	Song Sparrow	36
Common Snipe	18	Barn Swallow	41	Lincoln's Sparrow	223
California Gull	1	Swallow species	3	White-crowned Sparrow . .	377
Band-tailed Pigeon	88	Black-capped Chickadee . . .	34	Gray-headed Junco	470
Mourning Dove	21	Mountain Chickadee	328	Black-headed Grosbeak	30
Great Horned Owl	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	40	Red-winged Blackbird	69
White-throated Swift	4	White-breasted Nuthatch . .	17	Brewer's Blackbird	32
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	375	Pygmy Nuthatch	17	Common Grackle	12
Belted Kingfisher	1	Brown Creeper	29	Brown-headed Cowbird	57
Williamson's Sapsucker	3	Rock Wren	30	Bullock's Oriole	1
Red-naped Sapsucker	15	House Wren	79	Brown-capped Rosy-Finch . .	4
Downy Woodpecker	2	Winter Wren	1	Pine Grosbeak	32
Hairy Woodpecker	27	American Dipper	3	Cassin's Finch	63
Three-toed Woodpecker	2	Golden-crowned Kinglet . .	104	Red Crossbill	64
Northern Flicker	67	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	460	Pine Siskin	366
Olive-sided Flycatcher	19	Western Bluebird	2	American Goldfinch	1
				House Sparrow	40

Totals: 109 species; 6885 individuals; 44 individuals per count hour.

Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Barbara & Earl Bolton, Diane Brown, Terry Cookro, Cindy Cornelius, Marty Dick, Gene Dilworth, Lee & Virginia Evans, Mike Figgs, Jean-Pierre Georges, Ashi & Ivan Getting, Beverly Gholson, Kathleen Gibson, Dave Hallock, Paula Hansley, Susan Harris, Jim Holitza, Lynne Ihlstrom, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Dawn Kumpli, Margy Lanham, Nan Lederer, Cherie Long, Lisa McCoy, Merle & Sally Miller, Paul Mintier, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Mark Pscheid, Renee Sequin, Michael Tupper, Eric Vozick.