INDIAN PEAKS FOUR SEASON BIRD COUNTS

Spring, Summer 2007 Newsletter Vol.26 Nos.2&3

Spring Count Summary

The Spring Count saw slightly above average number of species, though well below last year, and above average number of birds.

Spring Count Summary

Number of Species
2007 – 86
2006 - 94
20-Year Average – 83
Record High – 95 (1996 & 1999)
Record Low – 74 (1988)

Number of Individuals
2007 – 44 per count hour
2006 – 43 per count hour
20-Year Average – 42
Record High – 54 (2004)
Record Low – 23 (1983)

The first eight days of the count period were cool with some snow and rain, with close to a foot of snow during the first weekend. The weather warmed up with temperature hitting 70° F. for the second weekend.

Good finds included (number of times seen on Spring Count followed by observers initials): wood duck (4th time, 3 of those in the last 4 years; MP, LMc); wild turkey (2nd time, with last year being the first; DH), American avocet (1st time; JH, CN-H), solitary sandpiper (4th time; JH, CN-H), olive-sided flycatcher (6th time, including each of the last 3 years; DH), Hammond's flycatcher (5th time; DH), cedar waxwing (2nd time; LA-G, J-PG, J&DF), MacGillivray's warbler (7th time, all since 1998; BK, TD, GG), western tanager (4th time, all since 2000; BK, TD, GG, MD, LE, DH), and white-winged crossbill (2nd time; MF, NL, DH).

Higher than average numbers were detected for broad-tailed hummingbird, yellow-rumped warbler, green-tailed towhee, and Lincoln's sparrow. The good cone crop on Engelmann spruce, Douglas-fir, and limber pine contributed to high than average numbers of Clark's nutcracker, red-breasted nuthatch, pine grosbeak, red crossbill, and pine siskin.

There were below average numbers for Steller's jay, ruby-crowned kinglet, American robin, and dark-eyed junco.

Regular finds not detected included American kestrel, white-throated swift, horned lark, brown-capped rosy-finch, and evening grosbeak.

Breeding Count Summary

This was more of an average year, particularly when compared to last summer, which produced many unusual sightings.

Breeding Count Summary

Number of Species
2007 – 105
20-Year Average – 100
Last Year – 110
Record High – 112 (2001)
Record Low – 88 (1984)

Number of Individuals
2007 – 43 per count hour
20-Year Average – 42
Last Year – 44
Record High – 59 (2004)
Record Low – 31 (1982)

But there were some good finds this year. American widgeon and Virginia rail were seen for the first time on the Breeding Count, both on the Arapaho Ranch (NM, MT). A lesser scaup was seen for the second time (BK, AS, JV, MB, GM). And a yellow-headed blackbird was seen for the second time (JH, CN-H, M&SM).

Normal finds not observed this year

included sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks, American kestrel, belted kingfisher, and killdeer.

High numbers of tree-cone seed-eaters continued to be present in the count area, particularly red-breasted nuthatch, Clark's nutcracker, red crossbill, and pine siskin. Their numeric rise began in the spring of 2006, and really took off with the fall 2006 count. Other species with high numbers included common merganser, black-capped chickadee, pygmy nuthatch (all-time high), yellow warbler (all-time high), and song sparrow (all-time high).

Off setting the high counts were the following low counts: ring-necked duck, rock wren, golden-crowned kinglet, yellow-rumped warbler, Wilson's warbler (all-time low), Lincoln's sparrow, and brown-headed cowbird (all-time low).

Brewer's sparrows and a sage thrasher were present in the krummholz again. Six Brewer's sparrows at four different locations were observed this year.

Odds and Ends

A couple of name changes that not everyone may be aware of. Blue grouse is now dusky grouse. Common snipe is now Wilson's snipe.

It has never been easier to find an American three-toed woodpecker. And it will get even easier. The mountain pine beetles jumped over the Continental Divide several years ago and are hitting the limber and lodgepole pines in the southern portion of the count circle. They are heading north. There is also a balsam fir beetle hitting the subalpine fire. And the Engelmann spruce beetle is coming south. It is possible that in 3-4 years portions of the count circle will look like the Fraser area on the Western Slope. It will be interesting to track changes to the avian community.

I continued to track the occurrence of Brewer's sparrows in the krummholz. On a weekly basis I observed what appeared to be a pair located in the exact same patch of willows as last year. I again failed to find a nest, but had a fledged young, though I never observed it interacting with the adults, so I'm not 100% certain. I recorded a tape of their song. A sonogram was produced and reviewed by two experts. The general feeling is that the song matched the true Brewer's sparrow and not the "timberline sparrow." To be continued next year, if they are there at all.

Looking Ahead

Fall Count
Count Day – September 15
Count Period – September 8-21

Winter Count
Count Day – January 19
Count Period – Dec. 15 – Feb. 15

Happy Birding,

Dave Hallock

2007 INDIAN PEAKS SPRING BURD COUNT

Count day – May 5; Count period – May 1-14. Weather: cool with precipitation the first 8 days, then warm. Seventeen observers, 16 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 62.75. Total party miles: 141.2.

Canada Goose	11
Wood Duck	1
Mallard	44
Green-winged Teal	2
Ring-necked Duck	9
Duck species	4
Wild Turkey	1
White-tailed Ptarmigan	1
Dusky Grouse	4
Western Grebe	1
Double-crested Cormorant	3
Great Blue Heron	1
Turkey Vulture	2
Osprey	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Cooper's Hawk	1
Northern Goshawk	2
Red-tailed Hawk	10
American Avocet	1
Solitary Sandpiper	1
Spotted Sandpiper	6
Wilson's Snipe	16
Band-tailed Pigeon	10
Mourning Dove	3
Broad-tailed Humming	194
Belted Kingfisher	1
Williamson's Sapsucker	7
Red-naped Sapsucker	17
Downy Woodpecker	2
Hairy Woodpecker	14
Am. Three-Toed Wood.	2
Northern Flicker	55
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1
Hammond's Flycatcher	2
Dusky Flycatcher	7
Empidonax species	1
Warbling Vireo	1
Gray Jay	5
Steller's Jay	58
Clark's Nutcracker	35
Black-billed Magpie	38
American Crow	60
Common Raven	26
Tree Swallow	179
Violet-green Swallow	36
Barn Swallow	48
Swallow species	5
Black-capped Chickadee	16
Mountain Chickadee	205
Red-breasted Nuthatch	81
White-breasted Nuthatch	15
Pygmy Nuthatch	21
Brown Creeper	15
House Wren	48
American Dipper	7
Golden-crowned Kinglet	49
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	213
Mountain Bluebird	27
Townsend's Solitaire	12
Hermit Thrush	10
American Robin	178
European Starling	3
American Pipit	19
Cedar Waxwing	3
Yellow Warbler	7
Yellow-rumped Warbler	163
(Myrtle)	(1)
MacGillivray's Warbler	3
Western Tanager	4
Green-tailed Towhee	26
Spotted Towhee	5
Chipping Sparrow	30
Vesper Sparrow	3
Fox Sparrow	20
Song Sparrow	22
Lincoln's Sparrow	18
White-crowned Sparrow	12
Dark-eyed Junco	192
(Gray-headed)	(168)
Black-headed Grosbeak	6
Red-winged Blackbird	39
Brewer's Blackbird	8
Common Grackle	21
Brown-headed Cowbird	36
Pine Grosbeak	26
Cassin's Finch	12
House Finch	9
Red crossbill	48
White-winged Crossbill	5
Pine Siskin	165
American Goldfinch	5
House Sparrow	5

Totals: 86 species plus 2 additional races; 2742 individuals; 44 individuals per count hour. Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Diane Brown, Todd Deininger, Marty Dick, Libby Ellis, Mike Figgs, Janice & David Fossey, Jean-Pierre Georges, Ginny Gielow, Dave Hallock, Jim Holitza, Bill Kaempfer, Nan Lederer, Lisa McCoy, Carol Newman-Holitza, and Mark Pscheid.

2007 INDIAN PEAKS BREEDING BIRD COUNT

Count day – June 16; Count period – June 1 – July 15; Weather: June was warmer and drier than normal while the first two weeks of July were also warm and dry. Thirty-four observers, 21 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 132.25.

Canada Goose	5
American Wigeon	3
Mallard	49
Green-winged Teal	3
Ring-necked Duck	5
Lesser Scaup	2
Common Merganser	5
White-tailed Ptarmigan	11
Dusky Grouse	4
Double-crested Cormorant	6
Great Blue Heron	8
Turkey Vulture	4
Osprey	3
Northern Goshawk	2
Red-tailed Hawk	10
Golden Eagle	2
Virginia Rail	1
Sora	1
Spotted Sandpiper	8
Wilson's Snipe	8
Band-tailed Pigeon	35
Mourning Dove	40
Great Horned Owl	2
Common Nighthawk	1
White-throated Swift	3
Broad-tailed Humming.	453
Rufous Hummingbird	3
Williamson's Sapsucker	7
Red-naped Sapsucker	16
Downy Woodpecker	6
Hairy Woodpecker	31
Am. Three-toed Wood.	6
Northern Flicker	60
Olive-sided Flycatcher	9
Western Wood-Pewee	16
Hammond's Flycatcher	10
Dusky Flycatcher	50
Cordilleran Flycatcher	50
Empidonax species	9
Plumbeous Vireo	1
Warbling Vireo	143
Gray Jay	17
Steller's Jay	88
Clark's Nutcracker	109
Black-billed Magpie	29
American Crow	50
Common Raven	63
Horned Lark	28
Tree Swallow	214
Violet-green Swallow	123
N. Rough-winged Swallow	7
Cliff Swallow	18
Barn Swallow	44
Black-capped Chickadee	62
Mountain Chickadee	248
Red-breasted Nuthatch	75
White-breasted Nuthatch	28
Pygmy Nuthatch	63
Brown Creeper	24
Rock Wren	12
House Wren	105
American Dipper	7
Golden-crowned Kinglet	47
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	233
Western Bluebird	2
Mountain Bluebird	35
Townsend's Solitaire	29
Swainson's Thrush	18
Hermit Thrush	198
American Robin	312
Sage Thrasher	1
European Starling	2
American Pipit	106
Virginia's Warbler	7
Yellow Warbler	39
Yellow-rumped Warbler	223
MacGillivray's Warbler	38
Wilson's Warbler	91
Western Tanager	17
Green-tailed Towhee	67
Chipping Sparrow	58
Brewer's Sparrow	6
Vesper Sparrow	4
Savannah Sparrow	1
Fox Sparrow	39
Song Sparrow	64
Lincoln's Sparrow	113
White-crowned Sparrow	252
Gray-headed Junco	382
Black-headed Grosbeak	31
Red-winged Blackbird	60
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1
Western Meadowlark	1
Brewer's Blackbird	26
Common Grackle	6
Brown-headed Cowbird	24
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	4
Pine Grosbeak	32
Cassin's Finch	34
House Finch	19
Red Crossbill	213
Pine Siskin	336
American Goldfinch	10
Evening Grosbeak	1
House Sparrow	15

Totals: 105 species; 5701 individuals; 43 individuals per count hour. Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Earl & Barbara Bolton, Maggie Boswell, Diane Brown, Diane Carter, Andy Cowell, Marty Dick, Libby Ellis, Kayla Evans, Lee & Virginia Evans, Mike Figgs, Maryanne Flynn, Jean-Pierre Georges, Dave Hallock, Paula Hansley, Jim Holitza, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Nan Lederer, Rebecca Linn, Gary Matthews, Merle & Sally Miller, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Mark Pscheid, Caryl Shields, Michael Tupper, John Vanderpoel, Tom VanZandt, George Young.