

INDIAN PEAKS FOUR SEASON BIRD COUNTS

Fall 2001, Winter 2002

Newsletter

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Fall Count Summary

This Fall Count marked the end of 20 years of Indian Peaks Bird Counts. We encountered a mix of weather this fall. The two-week count period began with 10" of snow and some cold weather. Another front came through at the beginning of the second week. Otherwise there was seasonal fall weather, with the warmest temperatures coming at the end.

The results of the Fall Count were average. Some participants felt what they saw was well below average. It seemed to vary by when counts were conducted.

Fall Count Summary
Number of Species – 80
(Average – 82)
Individuals – 35 Per Hour
(Average – 34)

Three species were seen for the first time on the Fall Count: Northern Pintail (BK, AC, GM, DW, BS, EZ); Wild Turkey (DH); and Red-headed Woodpecker (BK, AC, GM, DW, BS, EZ).

Other good finds included: Canada Goose – 5th time (JH, CN-H, M&SM); Hammond's Flycatcher – 4th time (DH); and Plumbeous Vireo – 5th time (BK, AC, GM, DW, BS, EZ).

There were above average numbers for Mallard, Green-winged Teal, American Crow (record number for Fall Count), Steller's jay, Common Raven, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (record number for Fall Count), and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Corvids, as evidenced by high

numbers of jays, crows, and ravens had their second highest number for the Fall Count.

Below average numbers were recorded for Clark's Nutcracker, Horned Lark, Mountain Bluebird, American Robin, and Pine Siskin (record low for Fall Count).

Species normally seen and not observed on this count included Red-naped Sapsucker, Swainson's Thrush, European Starling, MacGillivray's warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, and Cassin's Finch.

Winter Count Summary

The results of the Winter Count were also average with number of species and individuals per count hour right at the 20-year average. Thirty-one species were seen in the montane portion of the count circle, along with a respectable 31 birds per count hour. Nineteen species were observed in the subalpine count areas, along with a poor 5 birds per count hour.

Winter Count Summary
Number of Species – 36
(Average – 36.5)
Individuals – 18 Per Hour
(Average – 18)

Eagles and hawks provided the most excitement. Good finds included Bald Eagle – 1st time (MP, LMc), Prairie Falcon – 2nd time (MF, NL), American Kestrel – 2nd time (MP, LMc), and Rough-Legged Hawk – 9th time (GD). A Golden Eagle was also observed. However, only a single Red-tailed Hawk was spotted.

Bohemian Waxwings made a strong showing, the best since the winter of 1999.

They are another irruptive species that periodically leaves the north, probably due to poor food resources. Locally, we have had high counts in 1984, 1987, 1996, 1999, and now 2002 (see graph below).

As usual, corvids made a good showing. This was the 2nd highest winter count. Steller's Jay, American Crow, and Black-billed Magpie lead the way.

Several other species were found in good number. Evening Grosbeaks had their highest winter count since 1996. Fourteen White-tailed Ptarmigan were found, 11 by the Niwot Ridge team (LA-G, JG, BB, J-PG, SW) who braved 50 M.P.H. winds. Townsend's Solitaire, Red-winged Blackbird, and House Sparrow all doubled their historic average.

Several species made poor numeric showings. Only 2 Red Crossbills were seen and other conifer seedeaters did not fare any better. No accipiters were observed for only

the 5th time on the winter count. Pygmy Nuthatch, American Robin, and Pine Siskin were more than half their usual number. Missed were Blue Grouse, Northern Shrike, and Rosy-Finch.

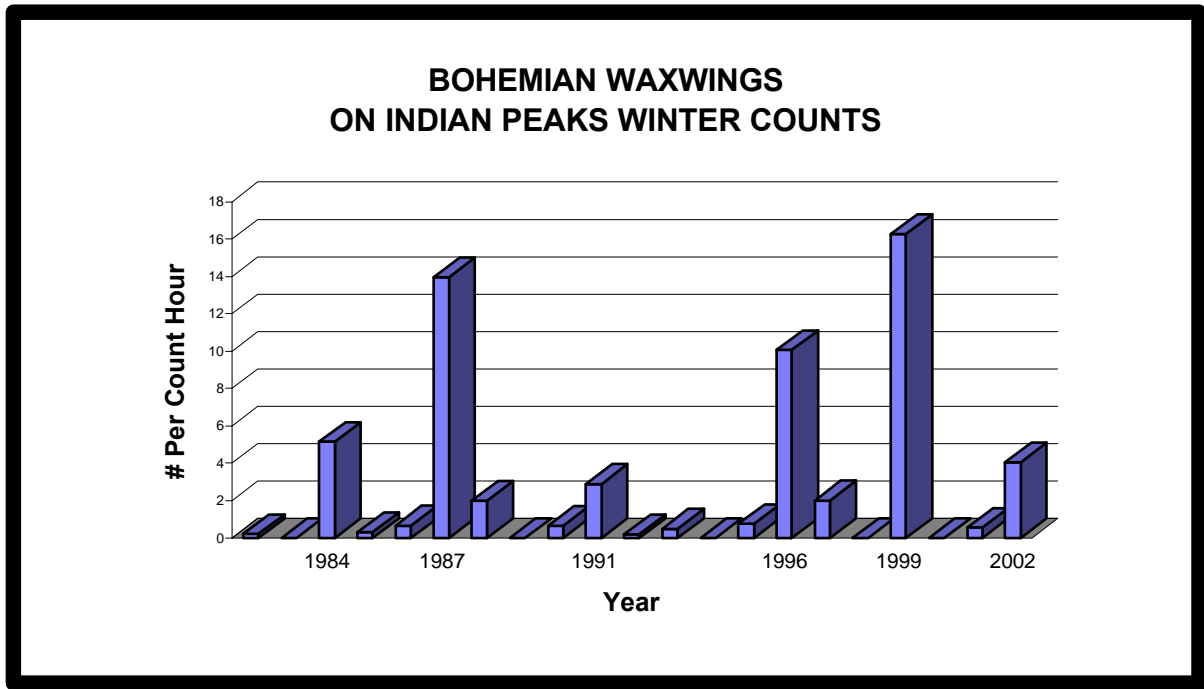
Looking Ahead

Next Counts

Spring
 Count Day – May 4
 Count Period – May 1 – 14

Summer
 Count Day – June 15
 Count Period – June 1 – July 15

Happy Birding
 Dave Hallock



2001 INDIAN PEAKS FALL BIRD COUNT

Count day – September 15; Count period – September 8 – 23. Weather: Seasonal with storms during the beginning and middle of the count period. Twenty-five observers, 14 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 80.25.

Double-crested Cormorant.....	1	Horned Lark.....	2
Great Blue Heron.....	1	Black-capped Chickadee.....	38
Turkey Vulture.....	2	Mountain Chickadee.....	396
Canada Goose.....	6	Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	28
Mallard.....	50	White-breasted Nuthatch.....	41
Northern Pintail.....	1	Pygmy Nuthatch.....	66
Green-winged Teal.....	13	Brown Creeper.....	26
Ring-necked Duck.....	5	Rock Wren.....	2
Lesser Scaup.....	5	House Wren.....	8
Osprey.....	1	American Dipper.....	4
Northern Harrier.....	2	Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	49
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	121
Cooper's Hawk.....	3	Mountain Bluebird.....	22
Northern Goshawk.....	3	Townsend's Solitaire.....	51
<i>Accipiter</i> Species.....	1	Hermit Thrush.....	8
Red-tailed Hawk.....	17	American Robin.....	131
<i>Buteo</i> Species.....	1	American Pipit.....	60
American Kestrel.....	1	Orange-crowned Warbler.....	8
White-tailed Ptarmigan.....	1	Virginia's Warbler.....	1
Blue Grouse.....	4	Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	243
Wild Turkey.....	8	Townsend's Warbler.....	18
Common Snipe.....	2	Wilson's Warbler.....	42
Band-tailed Pigeon.....	27	Green-tailed Towhee.....	16
Broad-tailed Hummingbird.....	5	Chipping Sparrow.....	39
Belted Kingfisher.....	2	Fox Sparrow.....	6
Red-headed Woodpecker.....	1	Song Sparrow.....	14
Williamson's Sapsucker.....	1	Lincoln's Sparrow.....	38
Downy Woodpecker.....	6	White-crowned Sparrow.....	70
Hairy Woodpecker.....	18	Dark-eyed Junco.....	351
Three-toed Woodpecker.....	1	Gray-headed.....	(203)
Northern Flicker.....	38	Pink-sided.....	(29)
Hammond's Flycatcher.....	1	Red-winged Blackbird.....	30
Cordilleran Flycatcher.....	1	Brewer's Blackbird.....	15
Plumbeous Vireo.....	1	Common Grackle.....	3
Warbling Vireo.....	1	Brown-headed Cowbird.....	2
Gray Jay.....	31	Pine Grosbeak.....	19
Steller's Jay.....	206	House Finch.....	2
Pinyon Jay.....	2	Red Crossbill.....	13
Clark's Nutcracker.....	21	Pine Siskin.....	47
Black-billed Magpie.....	30	American Goldfinch.....	6
American Crow.....	171	Evening Grosbeak.....	4
Common Raven.....	58	House Sparrow.....	30

Totals: 80 species plus 2 additional races; 2825 individuals; 35 individuals per count hour. Participants: Barbara & Earl Bolton, Diane Brown, Andy Cowell, Marty Dick, Kathy Gibson, Audrey Godell, Dave Hallock, Susan Harris, Jody Havorka, Jim Holitzka, Lynne Ihlstrom, Bill Kaempfer, Dawn Kummli, Cherie Long, Gary Matthews, Lisa McCoy, Merle & Sally Miller, Carol Newman-Holitzka, Mark Pscheid, Bill Schmoker, David Waltman, Tom VanZandt, Eric Zorawitcz.

2002 INDIAN PEAKS WINTER BIRD COUNT

Count day – January 12; Count period – December 15 to February 15. Weather: Snow amount slightly below average, temperature slightly below average, wind slightly above average. Thirty-four observers, 15 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 76.5.

Bald Eagle	1	Brown Creeper	12
Red-tailed Hawk.....	1	American Dipper.....	1
Rough-legged Hawk	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	8
Golden Eagle	1	Townsend's Solitaire	29
American Kestrel.....	1	American Robin	5
Prairie Falcon.....	1	European Starling	5
White-tailed Ptarmigan	14	Bohemian Waxwing	310
Downy Woodpecker.....	3	American Tree Sparrow.....	1
Hairy Woodpecker.....	20	Dark-eyed Junco	70
Three-toed Woodpecker	3	White-winged.....	(7)
Gray Jay	3	Slate-colored	(3)
Steller's Jay	114	Oregon	(1)
Clark's Nutcracker.....	11	Gray-headed.....	(4)
Black-billed Magpie	30	Pink-sided	(2)
American Crow	151	Red-winged Blackbird.....	45
Common Raven	33	Pine Grosbeak	18
Black-capped Chickadee.....	45	Red Crossbill.....	2
Mountain Chickadee.....	350	Pine Siskin	16
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	16	Evening Grosbeak	33
White-breasted Nuthatch	22	House Sparrow.....	20
Pygmy Nuthatch	11		

Totals: 36 species plus 5 additional races; 1407 individuals; 18 individuals per count hour.

Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Terry Cookro, Andy Cowell, Marty Dick, Gene Dilworth, Edie Eilender, Susan Fernald, Mike Figgs, Joyce Gellhorn, Jean-Pierre Georges, Beverly Gholson, Kathy Gibson, Audrey Godell, Maddy Goldhawk, Paula Hansley, Susan Harris, Elaine Hill, Jim Holitza, Bill Kaempfer, Dawn Kumpli, Nan Lederer, Cherie Long, Gary Matthews, Lisa McCoy, Merle & Sally Miller, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Mark Pscheid, Mike Tupper, Dave Waltman, Susan Winter, Tom VanZandt.