

INDIAN PEAKS BIRD COUNTS

Fall 2019

Newsletter

Vol.38 No. 3

Fall Count Summary

If you thought there were a lot of Red-breasted Nuthatches you were right. We saw 225, which is an all-time high for ALL counts (previous high was 139 on Winter Count of 1995). And by a 2-1 margin more were seen in the montane than subalpine count areas. Other conifer seed-eaters did well. The 174 Clark's Nutcrackers is also an all-time high for the Fall Count, while the 134 Red Crossbills was their highest count in the fall since 2012. My own casual observations indicated that all the conifer species had a decent cone crop, with Douglas-firs and limber pines being more on the "bumper" side of cone abundance.

Fall Count Summary

Number of Species

2019 - 94

Last Fall - 67

30-year Average - 83

Record High - 99 (1992)

Record Low - 67 (2018)

Number of Individuals

2019 - 31/count hour

Last Fall - 28/count hour

30-year Average - 34/count hour

Record High - 48/count hour (1991)

Record Low - 25/count hour (1982, 83 & 93)

There was one new find for the Fall Count, a Calliope Hummingbird at Maureen Blackford's feeder along Sugarloaf. Loren Merrill saw a Common Loon on Barker Reservoir, the third time they have been sighted on the Fall Count. Other good finds were Wild Turkey (Arapaho Ranch; 9th time, 8 of the 9 sightings since 2010), American Coot (Rollinsville; 8th time), Bald Eagle (Rollinsville and Nederland; 7th time, all

since 2003), Western Wood-Pewee (Sugarloaf; 4th time), Dusky Flycatcher (Ward North; 8th time), Plumbeous Vireo (Rainbow Lakes; 9th time), White-winged Crossbill (Caribou; 5th time), American Tree Sparrow (Arapaho Ranch; 9th time), and Western Tanager (Arapaho Ranch and Sugarloaf; 6th time).

Species generally seen during the fall that were absent or missed were Green-winged Teal (not seen on Fall Count since 2010), Ring-necked Duck, American Kestrel, Violet-green Swallow, and Brown-capped Rosy-Finch.

Besides nutcrackers, nuthatches and crossbills, there were better than average counts for Canada Goose, Black-billed Magpie (all-time high), Dark-eyed Junco, and Pine Siskin.

There were well-below average numbers for Band-tailed Pigeon, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and American Robin.

Brewer's Blackbird appears to be another disappearing species. We saw 10 this count, but that is only the third time seen on the Fall Count since 2006. From 1982-2005 they were seen every count.

We had an excellent count effort, as we had just over 100 hours of field time, the highest since 2007, and 34 participants! Thanks to all of you for making it out. The beautiful weather certainly helped.

Winter Count

We are staying with the old way of conducting the Winter Count. You can do it anytime between December 15, 2019 and February 17, 2020. Those that want to do their count to coincide with the President's Day weekend (February 14-17) have that option. Just trying to provide a little more flexibility to get better participation.

Sad News

Barbara and Earl Bolton, who were original participants on the bird count (Eldora Count area) and continued until a few years ago, passed away this year within a few months of each other. Both were natives of Boulder County and in their 90s. They will be greatly missed.

Happy Birding,
Dave Hallock

2019 INDIAN PEAKS FALL BIRD COUNT

Count day – September 14; Count period – September 7-22. Thirty-four participants. Fifteen (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 100.77.

Canada Goose.....68	Cordilleran Flycatcher..... 2	Pine Grosbeak 20
Mallard72	Empidonax species..... 2	House Finch..... 6
Common Merganser6	Say's Phoebe..... 1	Cassin's Finch..... 24
White-tailed Ptarmigan.....1	Plumbeous Vireo..... 1	Red Crossbill 134
Dusky Grouse9	Warbling Vireo 3	White-winged Crossbill..... 3
Wild Turkey.....6	Canada Jay 19	Pine Siskin..... 162
Band-tailed Pigeon5	Steller's Jay..... 96	Lesser Goldfinch 6
Mourning Dove.....2	Clark's Nutcracker 174	American Goldfinch 2
Broad-tailed Hummingbird.26	Black-billed Magpie..... 125	Green-tailed Towhee 18
Rufous Hummingbird3	American Crow 79	American Tree Sparrow 1
Calliope Hummingbird1	Common Raven..... 30	Chipping Sparrow.....27
American Coot.....5	Horned Lark 10	Brewer's Sparrow 3
Common Loon1	Tree Swallow 1	Vesper Sparrow 4
Turkey Vulture.....2	Cliff Swallow 1	Fox Sparrow 4
Osprey.....4	Barn Swallow..... 23	Song Sparrow 10
Bald Eagle2	Black-capped Chickadee.... 62	Lincoln's Sparrow 19
Northern Harrier1	Mountain Chickadee 373	White-crowned Sparrow.... 88
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....2	Red-breasted Nuthatch..... 225	Dark-eyed Junco 420
Cooper's Hawk5	White-breasted Nuthatch.... 61	Pink-sided..... (1)
Northern Goshawk.....2	Pygmy Nuthatch..... 76	Gray-headed (302)
Red-tailed Hawk15	Brown Creeper 18	Red-winged Blackbird..... 5
Golden Eagle2	Rock Wren 1	Brewer's Blackbird 10
Great Horned Owl.....6	House Wren 23	Orange-crowned Warbler 2
Belted Kingfisher.....2	American Dipper..... 3	Virginia's Warbler 1
Williamson's Sapsucker3	Golden-crowned Kinglet.... 25	MacGillivray's Warbler 1
Red-naped Sapsucker.....5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 41	Yellow Warbler 4
Downy Woodpecker6	Western Bluebird 6	Yellow-rumped Warbler... 110
Hairy Woodpecker.....33	Mountain Bluebird 28	Townsend's Warbler 3
Three-toed Woodpecker3	Townsend's Solitaire..... 20	Wilson's Warbler 26
Northern Flicker37	Hermit Thrush 5	Western Tanager 3
woodpecker species1	American Robin 89	Black-headed Grosbeak..... 1
Western Wood-Pewee1	House Sparrow 10	passerine species 7
Dusky Flycatcher1	American Pipit 17	
	Evening Grosbeak 10	

Totals: 94 species; 3,111 individuals; 31 individuals per count hour.

Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Maureen Blackford, Alex Brown, Diane Brown, Gillian Brown, George Coffee, Dave Hallock, Paula Hansley, Elaine Hill, Jim Holitza, Steve Jones, Carol Kampert, Elena Klaver, Nan Lederer, Topi Martinez, Eric Maxfield, Holden Maxfield, Loren Merrill, Merle Miller, Sally Miller, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Mark Pscheid, Jeannie Reynolds, Matt Reynolds, Fran Sheets, Payson Sheets, Cara Stiles, Lucy Stroock, Mike Tupper, Diane Wild, Maribel Williams, and Marty Wolf.