

# INDIAN PEAKS BIRD COUNTS

Summer 2019

Newsletter

Vol.38 No.2

## Breeding Count Summary

In terms of number of birds per count hour, this was one of the worst counts we had - second worst since 1982. But number of species was higher than average.

The late snowpack and wintery weather in May insured that birds in subalpine/alpine areas were going to get a very late start. Sometimes when this happens we get a bump in the montane, but not this year (except for White-crowned Sparrow).

### Breeding Count Summary

#### Number of Species

2019 – 106

30-Year Average – 102

Last Year – 107

Record High – 112 (2001)

Record Low – 88 (1984)

#### Number of Individuals

2019 – 33 per count hour

30-Year Average – 44

Last Year – 40

Record High – 59 (2004)

Record Low – 31 (1982)

The poor numbers of birds was seen across the board, including many of our most common species - Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and White-crowned Sparrow. The overall list is too long. The late snowpack likely contributed to only 2 Horned Larks being found on the tundra, no Rock Wrens in the cliffs above treeline, and 20 Brown-capped Rosy-Finches being seen at a feeder just outside of Nederland in June.

But a handful of species had better than normal numbers. Canada Goose saw an all-time high; in fact during the last two years we have seen numbers over double the previous high -

are they escaping the killing fields on the golf courses of Denver metro? Cliff swallows were also at an all-time high. High numbers of Red Crossbills are also present in the mountains - judging from vocalizations some may be beginning to nest.

There were no new species observed but there were some good finds, including Blue-winged Teal (7th time on Breeding Count - with chicks, documented breeding), Prairie Falcon (8th time), Bald Eagle (6th time - all since 2000), Wild Turkey (4th time - all since 2008), Eurasian-collared Dove (7th time - all since 2008), Say's Phoebe (8th time - all since 2000), Long-eared Owl (3rd time - all since 2005), and Lesser Scaup (4th time - all since 2002).

Species normally seen over 50% of the time but missed this year included Green-winged Teal (were seen every year on the breeding count until 2015 and have not been seen since), Cooper's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Sora, Killdeer (they were seen on 19 of the first 20 Breeding Counts - they have not been seen in the last 9 years), Common Nighthawk, Belted Kingfisher, and European Starling.

Our field effort - 131 hours - was excellent. There is no loss of effort for the Breeding Count. We continue to pick up some new participants to supplement us old-timers with some fresh legs and young ears.

As always, thanks for your continued participation.

## Looking Ahead

### Fall Count

Count Day - September 14

Count Period - September 7-22

Happy Birding,  
Dave Hallock

## 2019 INDIAN PEAKS BREEDING BIRD COUNT

Count day – June 22; Count period – June 1 – July 15; Weather: wetter and cooler than normal, with a very late snowpack. Thirty-one observers, 18 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 131.

Canada Goose.....54	Western Wood-Pewee..... 16	House Sparrow..... 18
Mallard.....47	Hammond's Flycatcher..... 8	American Pipit..... 46
Blue-winged Teal.....4	Dusky Flycatcher..... 28	Evening Grosbeak..... 1
Ring-necked Duck.....3	Cordilleran Flycatcher..... 62	Pine Grosbeak..... 8
Lesser Scaup.....1	Flycatcher species..... 6	Brown-capped Rosy-Finch. 26
Common Merganser.....4	Say's Phoebe..... 2	House Finch..... 7
White-tailed Ptarmigan.....6	Plumbeous Vireo..... 3	Cassin's Finch..... 9
Dusky Grouse.....1	Warbling Vireo..... 132	Red Crossbill..... 147
Wild Turkey.....5	Canada Jay..... 11	Pine Siskin..... 142
Band-tailed Pigeon.....25	Steller's Jay..... 61	Lesser Goldfinch..... 2
Eurasian-collared Dive.....2	Clark's Nutcracker..... 37	American Goldfinch..... 2
Mourning Dove.....8	Black-billed Magpie..... 28	Green-tailed Towhee..... 86
White-throated Swift.....3	American Crow..... 48	Spotted Towhee..... 2
Broad-tailed Humm.....395	Common Raven..... 35	Chipping Sparrow..... 58
Rufous Hummingbird.....6	Horned Lark..... 2	Vesper Sparrow..... 6
Wilson's Snipe.....10	Tree Swallow..... 129	Savannah Sparrow..... 3
Spotted Sandpiper.....11	Violet-green Swallow..... 88	Fox Sparrow..... 28
Double-crested Cormorant.. 11	N. Rough-winged Swallow.. 2	Song Sparrow..... 52
Great Blue Heron.....2	Cliff Swallow..... 94	Lincoln's Sparrow..... 108
Turkey Vulture.....8	Barn Swallow..... 17	White-crowned Sparrow .. 147
Osprey.....2	Black-capped Chickadee.... 43	Dark-eyed Junco..... 304
Bald Eagle.....1	Mountain Chickadee..... 224	Red-winged Blackbird..... 72
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....3	Red-breasted Nuthatch..... 38	Brewer's Blackbird..... 3
Northern Goshawk.....1	White-breasted Nuthatch.... 29	Common Grackle..... 6
Red-tailed Hawk.....11	Pygmy Nuthatch..... 22	Brown-headed Cowbird .... 42
Great Horned Owl.....2	Brown Creeper..... 12	Orange-crowned Warbler.... 1
Long-eared Owl.....1	Rock Wren..... 1	Virginia's Warbler..... 2
Williamson's Sapsucker.....7	House Wren..... 82	MacGillivray's Warbler..... 34
Red-naped Sapsucker..... 15	American Dipper..... 3	Common Yellowthroat..... 1
Downy Woodpecker.....9	Golden-crowned Kinglet.... 45	Yellow Warbler..... 24
Hairy Woodpecker.....24	Ruby-crowned Kinglet..... 227	Yellow-rumped Warbler... 148
Am. Three-toed Wood.....6	Western Bluebird..... 8	Wilson's Warbler..... 54
Northern Flicker.....35	Mountain Bluebird..... 24	Western Tanager..... 33
American Kestrel.....1	Townsend's Solitaire..... 18	Black-headed Grosbeak..... 24
Prairie Falcon.....1	Swainson's Thrush..... 18	
Olive-sided Flycatcher.....7	Hermit Thrush..... 114	
	American Robin..... 280	

Totals: 106 species; 4375 individuals; 33 individuals per count hour. Participants: Bev Baker, Ramesh Bhatt, Suzanne Bhatt, Maureen Blackford, Diane Brown, George Coffee, Virginia Evans, Mike Figgs, Randy Gietzen, Dave Hallock, Paula Hansley, Jim Holitza, Steve Jones, Nan Lederer, Eliza Maxfield, Holden Maxfield, Mary Maxfield, Lisa McCoy, Merle Miller, Sally Miller, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Mark Pscheid, Jeannie Reynolds, Cara Stiles, Lucy Stroock, Mike Tupper, Catherine Valentine, Susan Wagner, Marty Wolf, and Patricia Zishka.