

INDIAN PEAKS BIRD COUNTS

Winter 2020

Newsletter

Vol.39 No.1

Winter Count Summary

Overall, this was a very good winter count in terms of total numbers of birds on a per count hour basis. This was basically a continuation of the fall count, where a very good cone-crop on conifers resulted in record to near record numbers of Clark's Nutcrackers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Red Crossbills. Those three species were numerous this winter as well.

Winter Count Summary

Number of Species

2020 - 31

Last Winter - 32

35-year Average - 35

Record High - 42 (1982)

Record Low - 22 (2018)

Number of Individuals

2020 - 27/count hour

Last Winter - 25/count hour

35-year average - 19/count hour

Record High - 29/count hour (1999)

Record Low - 9/count hour (2018)

Other species with above-average numbers included Steller's Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Mountain Chickadee, and Red-winged Blackbird. The 20 American Robins seen may not catch your eye, but keep in mind that on 23 of the 39 winter counts 5 or fewer robins have been observed and over a quarter of the time we see none. Rosy-Finches also made a good showing as we have zeroed in on some of the better feeders in the count area.

There were no new species observed on this winter count. A single White-winged Crossbill was seen for the 7th time

on the winter count (Brainard); this is not surprising given the abundant cone-crop; they were also seen on the fall count.

Species normally seen at least 50% of the time during winter that were missed or absent included Red-tailed Hawk, Dusky Grouse, White-tailed Ptarmigan, American Dipper, Northern Shrike, Cassin's Finch, and House Sparrow.

There were poor numeric showings for Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak. Evening Grosbeaks are being seen at half the rate they used to be observed on the winter count; on the summer count there has been a 90% reduction in Evening Grosbeak observations. The low numbers of juncos is likely related to the extensive snow coverage of the ground.

This winter count begins our 39th year of Indian Peaks Bird Counts. We are shooting for 40 and then decide if we go beyond that. As always, your continued involvement is greatly appreciated.

Looking Ahead

Breeding Count

Count Day - June 20

Count Period - June 1 - July 15

Happy Birding,

Dave Hallock

2020 INDIAN PEAKS WINTER BIRD COUNT

Count period: December 15 - February 29. Twenty-one observers, 10 (of 25) areas covered.

Total party hours: 35.

Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	1	Brown Creeper	2
Golden Eagle.....	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	1
Downy Woodpecker	4	Townsend's Solitaire	4
Hairy Woodpecker	6	American Robin	20
American Three-toed Woodpecker.....	1	Evening Grosbeak.....	2
Northern Flicker.....	1	Pine Grosbeak	11
Canada Jay	5	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch.....	87
Steller's Jay.....	75	Black Rosy-Finch.....	2
Clark's Nutcracker	50	Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	108
Black-billed Magpie.....	19	finch species.....	2
American Crow	50	Red Crossbill.....	51
Common Raven	13	White-winged Crossbill	1
Black-capped Chickadee.....	54	Pine Siskin	2
Mountain Chickadee	186	Dark-eyed Junco	29
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	73	Slate-colored Junco.....	(1)
White-breasted Nuthatch	24	Gray-headed Junco.....	(2)
Pygmy Nuthatch.....	28	Red-winged Blackbird	45

Totals: 31 species; 958 individuals; 27 individuals per count hour. Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Suzanne Bhatt, Alex Brown, Gillian Brown, George Coffee, Virginia Evans, Fern Ford, Paula Hansley, Jim Holitza, Nan Lederer, Greg Massey, Eric Maxfield, Holden Maxfield, Merle Miller, Sally Miller, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Cara Stiles, Michael Tupper, and Susan Wagner.