

INDIAN PEAKS BIRD COUNTS

Summer 2022

Newsletter

Vol.41 No.1

Breeding Count Summary

This year saw a rebound in total numbers of birds from last year, though still below the 40-year average. But the real story was the 112 species observed, which tied the record high set last year. This included one new find for the Indian Peaks Bird Counts - Juniper Titmouse.

Breeding Count Summary

Number of Species

2022 - 112

40-Year Average - 103

Last Year - 112

Record High - 112 (2001)

Record Low - 88 (1984)

Number of Individuals

2022 - 4,555

40-Year Average - 5,144

Last Year - 3,806

Record High - 7,996 (2004)

Record Low - 3,141 (1986)

Number of Individuals - Per Count Hour

2022 - 30 per count hour

40-Year Average - 42

Last Year - 25

Record High - 59 (2004)

Record Low - 31 (1982)

There were many good finds on this count, including:

Cinnamon Teal - 4th time seen, first time since 2002 (Nederland).

Wild Turkey - 7th time seen, all since 2008 and 5 of last 6 counts (Arapaho Ranch, Eldora, Caribou Ranch).

Pied-billed Grebe - 6th time seen (Nederland).

Eurasian-collared Dove - 9th time seen, all since 2008 and 7 of the last 9 counts (Nederland).

Common Poorwill - 3rd time seen (Sugarloaf).

American White Pelican - 5th time seen, including 8 flying over Arapaho Pass

(Nederland, Arapaho Pass).

Bald Eagle - 9th time seen, all since 2000 (Arapaho Ranch).

Lewis's Woodpecker - 3rd time seen (Sugarloaf).

Say's Phoebe - 11th time seen, all since 2000 (Ward North, Sugarloaf and Nederland).

Juniper Titmouse - 1st time seen (Sugarloaf).

Gray Catbird - 6th time seen, 3 of last 5 counts (Nederland).

Ovenbird - 4th time seen near Lefthand Reservoir above Ward of all places (Niwot Ridge).

Lazuli Bunting - 8th time including last 3 years (Ward North).

There were several species missed that we normally see on the count. **Killdeer** has not been seen on the Breeding Count since 2010. They were seen on 19 of the first 20 counts but only 6 of the second 20. **Belted Kingfisher** is becoming less common. When comparing average numbers between the first 20 years of the count with the second 20 years, they have declined by 50%; they were seen on 19 of the first 20 counts and only 14 of the second 20 counts. **Savannah Sparrow** was not observed; they have been seen 25 times out of 40 counts. **Evening Grosbeak** continues to be hard to find. They have declined by 91% when comparing average numbers of the first 20 years with the second 20 years of the count. They were found on 18 of the first 20 counts but only 13 of the second 20 counts.

We had above average counts for several species. The 68 **Canada Geese** seen are a new high count for the breeding season, topping last year's count (66), which was the previous high count. They have increased by 800% when comparing the first 20 years with the second 20 years; they were found on 9 of the first 20 counts and 18 of the second 20. The 7 **Osprey** observed is the second highest count. They have seen a 200% increase in average numbers when comparing the first 20 years with the second 20; they were found on 11 of the first 20 counts and 20 of the second 20. **Cliff Swallows** have seen a consistent increase on the count, likely taking advantage of the growing number of buildings

that can accommodate their nests. They have seen a 300% increase when comparing average numbers between the first and second 20 years of the count; they were found on 10 of the first 20 counts and all 20 of the second 20. The 131 **American Crows** seen tied their high count set in 2004. **Red Crossbills** were in good number this year taking advantage of a good cone crop - there were 178 seen this year compared to 8 last year. Most of the sightings were in the subalpine areas (78%) - Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir have decent cone crops.

There were some notable poor counts for several species. During the first years of the count the "big three" nesting ducks were Mallard, Green-winged Teal and Ring-necked Duck. We should be happy about the 2 **Green-winged Teal** observed, as they had not been seen since 2014. There has been a 78% decrease of average count between the first and second 20 years; they were seen on all of the first 20 counts but only 13 of the second 20 counts. The 4 **Ring-necked Ducks** observed was also good as they had not been seen on 2 of the last 3 counts - but they had been seen every count before back to 1982. They have seen a 57% decrease of average count between the first and second 20 years. Ten **Horned Larks** were found. Lately,

their numbers have not been overwhelming. Though seen every year, in 2010 their numbers were only recorded in the single digits, and this has now been true (single digit counts) for 8 of the last 13 counts. This is the second year in a row that the **Fox Sparrow** count has not hit double digits - you have to go back to 1985 to find counts this low. This is the second year in a row that the **Pine Siskin** count did not achieve triple digits - all other counts have been over 100 and most counts have been in the 200-400 range.

As always, thanks for your continued participation. The effort was outstanding. We are getting new participants to help cover the alpine areas.

Looking Ahead

<p>2023 Breeding Count Count Period - June 1 - July 15</p>

Happy Birding,
Dave Hallock

2022 INDIAN PEAKS BREEDING BIRD COUNT

Count period : June 1 – July 15; Weather: June saw below normal precipitation (36% of normal) and above average

temperatures; the first half of July saw more normal precipitation but still above average temperature. Fifty-seven observers, 22 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 149.9 (142.4 on foot; 7.5 by car). Total party miles: 208.86 (84.2 by car; 124.66 on foot).

Canada Goose	68	Northern Flicker	40	Hermit Thrush	99
Cinnamon Teal	1	American Kestrel	1	American Robin	311
Mallard	41	Olive-sided Flycatcher	9	Gray Catbird	1
Green-winged Teal	2	Western Wood-Pewee	22	House Sparrow	10
Ring-necked Duck	4	Hammond's Flycatcher	4	American Pipit	62
Common Merganser	5	Dusky Flycatcher	28	Pine Grosbeak	14
Wild Turkey	13	Hammonds/Dusky Fly	8	Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	8
White-tailed Ptarmigan	5	Cordilleran Flycatcher	64	House Finch	23
Dusky Grouse	1	Empidonax species	5	Cassin's Finch	26
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Say's Phoebe	3	Red Crossbill	178
Band-tailed Pigeon	37	Warbling Vireo	138	Pine Siskin	90
Eurasian-collared Dove	3	Canada Jay	17	Lesser Goldfinch	5
Mourning Dove	12	Steller's Jay	44	Chipping Sparrow	55
Common Nighthawk	1	Blue Jay	1	Brewer's Sparrow	1
Common Poorwill	1	Clark's Nutcracker	50	Fox Sparrow	6
White-throated Swift	10	Black-billed Magpie	42	Gray-headed Junco	213
Broad-tailed Humming.	429	American Crow	131	White-crowned Sparrow ...	130
Rufous Hummingbird	10	Common Raven	46	Vesper Sparrow	3
Sora	1	Black-capped Chickadee	32	Song Sparrow	28
Wilson's Snipe	12	Mountain Chickadee	205	Lincoln's Sparrow	165
Spotted Sandpiper	14	Juniper Titmouse	1	Green-tailed Towhee	58
American White Pelican	10	Horned Lark	10	Spotted Towhee	1
Double-crested Cormorant ..	16	Tree Swallow	128	Red-winged Blackbird	75
Great Blue Heron	9	Violet-green Swallow	113	Brown-headed Cowbird	24
Turkey Vulture	8	Barn Swallow	17	Brewer's Blackbird	15
Osprey	7	Cliff Swallow	52	Common Grackle	4
Bald Eagle	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	9	Ovenbird	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	253	Orange-crowned Warbler	1
Cooper's Hawk	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	54	Virginia's Warbler	3
Northern Goshawk	2	White-breasted Nuthatch ...	31	MacGillivray's Warbler	27
Red-tailed Hawk	10	Pygmy Nuthatch	62	Yellow Warbler	17
Golden Eagle	1	Brown Creeper	9	Yellow-rumped Warbler ...	138
Great Horned Owl	4	Rock Wren	9	Wilson's Warbler	72
Lewis's Woodpecker	1	House Wren	66	Western Tanager	31
Williamson's Sapsucker	6	European Starling	4	Black-headed Grosbeak	31
Red-naped Sapsucker	18	American Dipper	5	Lazuli Bunting	2
Am. 3-toed Woodpecker	6	Mountain Bluebird	45		
Downy Woodpecker	12	Townsend's Solitaire	28		
Hairy Woodpecker	29	Swainson's Thrush	26		

Totals: 112 species; 4555 individuals; 30 individuals per count hour. Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Maureen Blackford, Alex Brown, Diane Brown, Gillian Brown, George Coffee, Denver Field Ornithologists (20 participants; taken from eBird, Susan Blansett reporter), Virginia Evans, Mike Figs, Audrey Godell, Dave Hallock, Paula Hansley, Jim Holitza, Steve Jones, Kathryn Kay, Elena Klaver, Nan Lederer, Greg Massey, Holden Maxfield, Mary Maxfield, Lisa McCoy, Jan McHugh-Smith, Merle Miller, Sally Miller, Timo Mitzen, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Chris Petrizzo, Mark Pscheid, Jeannie Reynolds, Matt Reynolds, Dr. Scott Taylor, Cara Stiles, Lucy Stroock, Kenna Sue Trickey, Mike Tupper, and Jeff Yegian.