

INDIAN PEAKS BIRD COUNTS

Summer 2014

Newsletter

Vol.33 No.2

Breeding Count Summary

Total numbers were below average and lower than last year. This is the third breeding count in a row where the total numbers have been below average. The last extended below average stretch was 1997-2001. The period from 2002-2011 saw above average numbers.

Low numbers were seen for many of our more common species, including mountain chickadee, ruby-crowned kinglet, American robin, and yellow-rumped warbler. The low numbers were more pronounced in the montane count areas than the subalpine. Other species with lower than average numbers included green-winged teal (it has become hard to find them in recent times), mourning dove, olive-sided flycatcher, warbling vireo, red-breasted nuthatch, Townsend's solitaire, hermit thrush, Wilson's warbler, Western tanager, and Lincoln's sparrow.

ruddy duck (Ward North group), Western sandpiper (South St. Vrain), and calliope hummingbird (Sugarloaf). Other good finds for the Breeding Count were blue-winged teal (4th time; Arapaho Ranch), Eurasian collared-dove (3rd time; Sugarloaf), long-eared owl (2nd time; Ward North), Western kingbird (4th time; the unlikely place of Mt. Audubon), and lazuli bunting (5th time; Ward North). We also note a willow flycatcher seen around Nederland (12th time, but only 4th time since 1998) and a white-winged crossbill seen near Brainard Lake (6th time).

Several species generally seen over 50% of the time that were not observed included common merganser, killdeer, Northern rough-winged swallow, and common grackle.

Species with well-above average numbers included Canada goose, double-crested cormorant, turkey vulture, white-tailed ptarmigan, white-throated swift, rufous hummingbird, and yellow warbler.

Our effort was very good, as we put in over 131 years, which is above average. We also had 46 observers, which I think is close to a record. So a big Thanks! to all of you for continuing to go out.

Breeding Count Summary

Number of Species

2014 - 111

30-Year Average - 102

Last Year - 106

Record High - 112 (2001)

Record Low - 88 (1984)

Number of Individuals

2014 - 39 per count hour

30-Year Average - 44

Last Year - 40

Record High - 59 (2004)

Record Low - 31 (1982)

Looking Ahead

Fall Count

Count Day - September 13

Count Period - September 6-21

However, the number of species observed was near the all-time high. First time sightings for the Breeding Count were

Happy Birding,
Dave Hallock

2014 INDIAN PEAKS BREEDING BIRD COUNT

Count day – June 15; Count period – June 1 – July 15; Weather: June saw average temperature and precipitation while July saw average to above average monsoon moisture during the first half of the month. Forty-six observers, 20 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 131.5.

Canada Goose.....48	American Kestrel 1	Hermit Thrush 139
Mallard32	Prairie Falcon..... 1	American Robin 278
Blue-winged Teal.....2	Olive-sided Flycatcher 4	European Starling 3
Green-winged Teal 1	Western Wood-Pewee..... 22	American Pipit..... 99
Ring-necked Duck7	Willow Flycatcher 1	Orange-crowned Warbler 2
Ruddy Duck1	Hammond’s Flycatcher 7	Virginia’s Warbler..... 3
White-tailed Ptarmigan.....18	Dusky Flycatcher 41	MacGillivray’s Warbler 32
Dusky Grouse2	Cordilleran Flycatcher..... 75	Yellow Warbler 30
Double-crested Cormorant..11	Empidonax species..... 11	Yellow-rumped Warbler... 188
Great Blue Heron.....5	Say’s Phoebe..... 1	Wilson’s Warbler 95
Turkey Vulture.....12	Western Kingbird..... 1	Green-tailed Towhee 58
Osprey.....5	Plumbeous Vireo..... 1	Spotted Towhee..... 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....1	Warbling Vireo 153	Chipping Sparrow..... 78
Cooper’s Hawk3	Gray Jay 21	Vesper Sparrow 8
Northern Goshawk.....2	Steller’s Jay 89	Fox Sparrow 20
Red-tailed Hawk15	Clark’s Nutcracker 60	Song Sparrow 40
Golden Eagle2	Black-billed Magpie..... 39	Lincoln’s Sparrow 130
Spotted Sandpiper.....7	American Crow 70	White-crowned Sparrow... 262
Western Sandpiper.....1	Common Raven..... 35	Dark-eyed Junco..... 297
Wilson’s Snipe.....10	Horned Lark..... 8	Western Tanager 15
Band-tailed Pigeon72	Tree Swallow 165	Black-headed Grosbeak..... 32
Eurasian Collared-Dove.....1	Violet-green Swallow..... 117	Lazuli Bunting 1
Mourning Dove.....9	Cliff Swallow 28	Red-winged Blackbird..... 73
Great Horned Owl.....3	Barn Swallow..... 47	Western Meadowlark 1
Long-eared Owl2	Black-capped Chickadee.... 31	Brewer’s Blackbird..... 6
Common Nighthawk4	Mountain Chickadee 183	Brown-headed Cowbird..... 62
White-throated Swift.....28	Red-breasted Nuthatch 38	Brown-capped Rosy-Finch. 15
Broad-tailed Humming.421	White-breasted Nuthatch.... 25	Pine Grosbeak 18
Rufous Hummingbird 10	Pygmy Nuthatch..... 36	House Finch..... 14
Calliope Hummingbird 1	Brown Creeper 10	Cassin’s Finch..... 35
Belted Kingfisher.....2	Rock Wren 9	Red Crossbill 114
Williamson’s Sapsucker.....11	House Wren 78	White-winged Crossbill..... 1
Red-naped Sapsucker.....20	American Dipper..... 3	Pine Siskin..... 281
Downy Woodpecker 15	Golden-crowned Kinglet.... 28	Lesser Goldfinch 2
Hairy Woodpecker.....31	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 249	American Goldfinch 3
Am. Three-toed Wood.9	Mountain Bluebird 38	Evening Grosbeak 1
Northern Flicker63	Townsend’s Solitaire..... 25	House Sparrow 9
	Swainson’s Thrush 20	Unidentified Songbirds..... 8

Totals: 111 species; 5107 individuals; 39 individuals per count hour. Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Maureen Blackford, Barbara Bolton, Earl Bolton, Maggie Boswell, Boulder Audubon Field Trip, Alex Brown, Diane Brown, Diane Carter, Andy Cowell, Todd Deininger, Marty Dick, David Dowell, Michelle Durant, Libby Ellis, Virginia Evans, Mike Figs, Jean-Pierre Georges, Dave Hallock, Paula Hansley, Jim Holitza, Edie Israel, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Carol Kampert, Dave Kampert, Catherine Labio, Sandra Laursen, Nan Lederer, Topi Martinez, Cindy Maynard, Lisa McCoy, Carron Meaney, Merle Miller, Sally Miller, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Pam Piombino, Mark Pscheid, Jeannie Reynolds, Tom Schlack, Cara Stiles, Lucy Stroock, Mike Tupper, Trish Waltham, Maikel Wise, and Susan Wise.