

INDIAN PEAKS FOUR SEASON BIRD COUNTS

Fall 2010, Winter 2011

Newsletter

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Fall Count Summary

The fall count saw a low number of birds. This was quite a difference from last fall and was the lowest since 1993. The low numbers were across the board, including Clark's nutcracker, common raven, black-capped chickadee, mountain chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, American robin, American pipit, yellow-rumped warbler, white-crowned sparrow, and dark-eyed junco.

Fall Count Summary

Number of Species

2010 - 81

Last Fall - 79

25-year Average - 83

Record High - 99 (1992)

Record Low - 70 (1996)

Number of Individuals

2010 - 29/count hour

Last Fall - 41/count hour

25-year Average - 34/count hour

Record High - 48/count hour (1991)

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

Total number of species was near average and better than last fall. One of the highlights was a first-time sighting of Cassin's vireo by the Ward North group. Other good finds included wild turkey (2nd time on fall count; Rollinsville), northern saw-whet owl (2nd time; Nederland), Lewis's woodpecker (6th time; Ward North), pinyon jay (8th time; Caribou), clay-colored sparrow (3rd time; Caribou), and Brewer's sparrow (5th time; Ward North).

Species normally seen in the fall that were not this year included northern harrier, sharp-shinned hawk, golden eagle, American

kestrel, white-tailed ptarmigan, mourning dove, horned lark, and fox sparrow.

Winter Count Summary

For the most part, the lack of birds seen during fall carried over to winter. There were no Bohemian waxwings, few red crossbills, robins, pine siskins and juncos, with only average numbers of mountain chickadees. These are the species that drive good winter counts.

Winter Count Summary

Number of Species

2011 - 35

Last Winter - 37

25-year Average - 36

Record High - 42 (1982)

Record Low - 28 (1998)

Number of Individuals

2011 - 21/count hour

Last Winter - 24/count hour

25-year average - 18/count hour

Record High - 29/count hour (1999)

Record Low - 11/count hour (1998)

The one exception was evening grosbeak. The 102 observed was the highest ever seen on the winter count. Since the mid-1990s their numbers have been down from earlier times on the count but appear to be making a local comeback.

Good finds included belted kingfisher (6th time on winter count; RG, NM, MT), snow bunting (2nd time; RG, NM, MT), white-winged crossbill (6th time; MF, NL), and American goldfinch (3rd time; MD, LE).

The Future of the IPBC

This is the 30th year of the count. Some of us have been having an email discussion about continuation of the count and what form it might take in the future. After completion of this year's fall count, the future might look something like this:

Winter Count: Move it to coincide with the Great Backyard Bird Count (President's Day Weekend in February; Friday-Monday).

Spring Count: Either drop it or keep it only for those areas east of the Peak-to-Peak Highway (May 1-14).

Summer/Breeding Count: Stays as is (June 1 – July 15).

Fall Count: Stays as is (Second and third weeks of September).

We will continue the discussion through the end of fall.

I would like to have a 30-year celebration get-together this year. Maybe in the fall, like Saturday, September 17th, 4 PM at the Kathmandu restaurant in Nederland. Other suggestions are welcome. Will firm this up as we get closer to fall.

Looking Ahead

Spring Count

Count Day – May 7
Count Period – May 1-14

Breeding Count

Count Day – June 18
Count Period – June 1 – July 15

Happy Birding,

Dave Hallock

2010 INDIAN PEAKS FALL BIRD COUNT

Count day – September 18; Count period – September 11-26. Twelve (of 25) areas covered.
Total party hours: 59.5.

Canada Goose.....	10	Cassin's Vireo	1	Yellow Warbler	1
Mallard	30	Gray Jay.....	15	Yellow-rumped Warbler	71
Green-winged Teal	2	Steller's Jay.....	103	Townsend's Warbler.....	5
Ring-necked Duck	3	Pinyon Jay.....	1	MacGillivray's Warbler.....	1
Common Merganser	22	Clark's Nutcracker	23	Wilson's Warbler.....	38
Dusky Grouse.....	2	Black-billed Magpie	20	Green-tailed Towhee	5
Wild Turkey.....	8	American Crow	83	Chipping Sparrow.....	121
Double-crested Cormorant ...	1	Common Raven.....	16	Clay-colored Sparrow.....	1
Great Blue Heron.....	1	Tree Swallow	4	Brewer's Sparrow	2
Turkey Vulture	4	Barn Swallow.....	7	Vesper Sparrow.....	4
Osprey	3	Black-capped Chickadee	18	Song Sparrow.....	10
Cooper's Hawk.....	3	Mountain Chickadee.....	256	Lincoln's Sparrow	5
Northern Goshawk	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	44	White-crowned Sparrow.....	26
Red-tailed Hawk	4	White-breasted Nuthatch....	13	Sparrow species.....	13
Buteo species.....	1	Pygmy Nuthatch.....	43	Dark-eyed Junco.....	164
Wilson's Snipe	1	Brown Creeper.....	17	(Gray-headed)	(136)
Band-tailed Pigeon.....	47	House Wren	3	Red-winged Blackbird	10
Great Horned Owl.....	1	American Dipper	5	Common Grackle.....	2
Northern Saw-whet Owl.....	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	15	Brown-capped Rosy-Finch....	2
Broad-tailed Hummingbird...	3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	24	Pine Grosbeak	8
Rufous Hummingbird.....	1	Mountain Bluebird	31	Cassin's Finch.....	7
Belted Kingfisher	2	Townsend's Solitaire.....	13	House Finch	3
Lewis's Woodpecker	2	Swainson's Thrush.....	1	Red Crossbill.....	29
Williamson's Sapsucker	2	Hermit Thrush.....	4	Pine Siskin.....	52
Red-naped Sapsucker.....	1	Thrush species.....	1	American Goldfinch.....	1
Downy Woodpecker	6	American Robin	121	Evening Grosbeak	10
Hairy Woodpecker.....	10	American Pipit	9	House Sparrow.....	17
Three-toed Woodpecker	7	Orange-crowned Warbler	2		
Northern Flicker	31	Virginia's warbler.....	4		

Totals: 81 species; 1715 individuals; 29 individuals per count hour.

2011 INDIAN PEAKS WINTER BIRD COUNT

Count day – January 15; Count period – December 15 – February 15. Nineteen observers, 7 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 32.7.

White-tailed Ptarmigan	12	American Dipper.....	1
Dusky Grouse.....	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	1
Red-tailed Hawk	3	Townsend’s Solitaire	12
Golden Eagle.....	2	American Robin.....	4
Belted Kingfisher	1	Am. Tree Sparrow.....	1
Downy Woodpecker	7	Dark-eyed Junco	11
Hairy Woodpecker	9	(White-winged).....	(1)
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker.....	1	(Oregon).....	(1)
Northern Flicker.....	5	(Slate-colored)	(1)
Gray Jay	3	(Pink-sided).....	(1)
Steller’s Jay.....	60	(Gray-headed)	(3)
Clark’s Nutcracker.....	7	Snow Bunting.....	2
Black-billed Magpie.....	11	Pine Grosbeak	43
American Crow	42	Cassin’s Finch.....	19
Common Raven	25	Red Crossbill.....	13
Black-capped Chickadee.....	31	White-winged Crossbill	2
Mountain Chickadee.....	188	Pine Siskin	16
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	10	American Goldfinch.....	10
White-breasted Nuthatch	9	Evening Grosbeak.....	102
Pygmy Nuthatch.....	16		
Brown Creeper	1		

Totals: 35 species plus 5 additional races; 681 individuals; 21 individuals per count hour.

Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Maggie Boswell, Alex Brown, Marty Dick, Todd Deininger, Libby Ellis, Mike Figs, Ted Floyd, Randy Gietzen, Jim Holitza, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Nan Lederer, Merle Miller, Sally Miller, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Mike Tupper, and John Vanderpoel.